LUCID DREAMS

Issue #2
December 2025

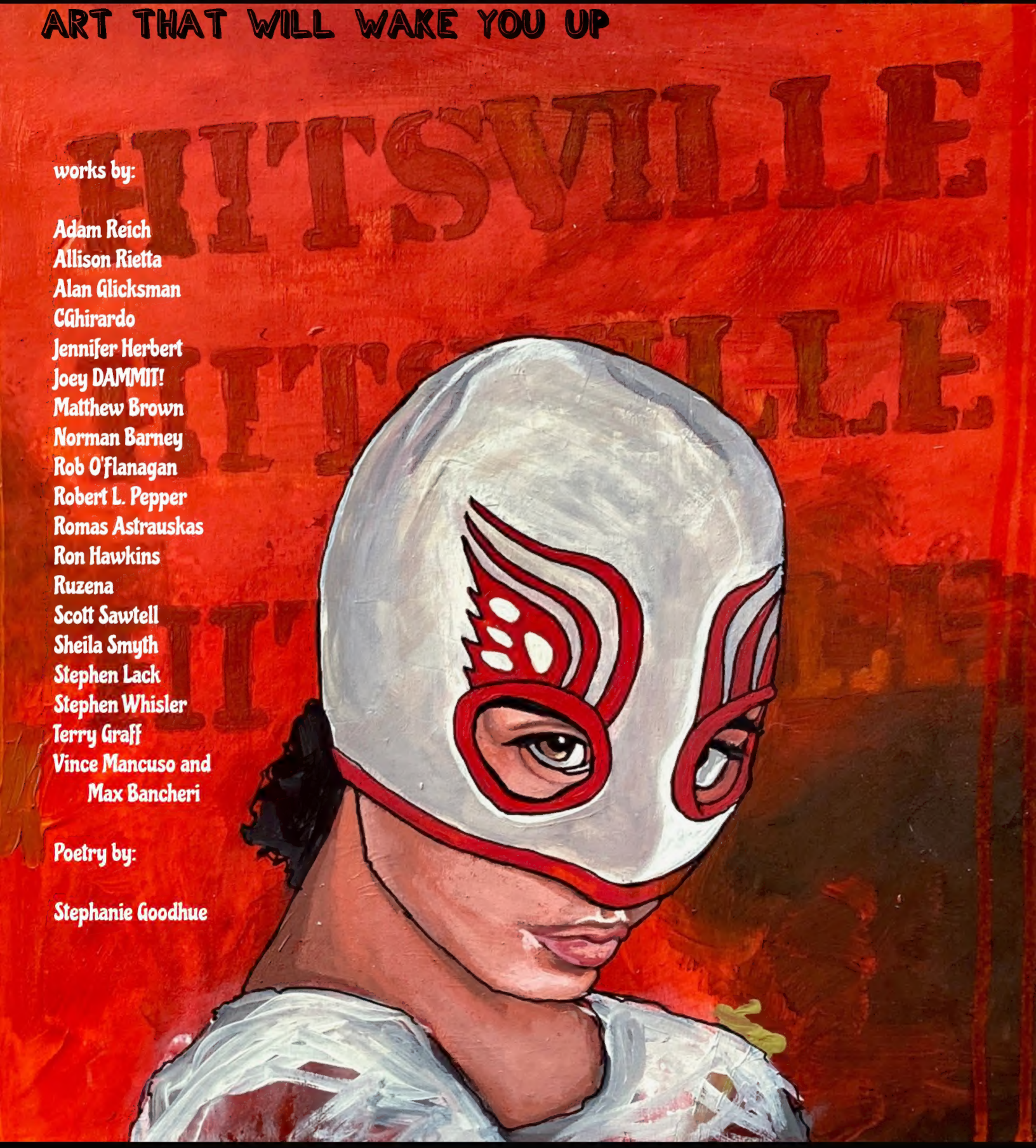
ART THAT WILL WAKE YOU UP

works by:

Adam Reich
Allison Rietta
Alan Glicksman
CGhirardo
Jennifer Herbert
Joey DAMMIT!
Matthew Brown
Norman Barney
Rob O'Flanagan
Robert L. Pepper
Romas Astrauskas
Ron Hawkins
Ruzena
Scott Sawtell
Sheila Smyth
Stephen Lack
Stephen Whisler
Terry Graff
Vince Mancuso and
Max Bancheri

Poetry by:

Stephanie Goodhue



comix, graphic novels, drawings, contemporary art, poetry

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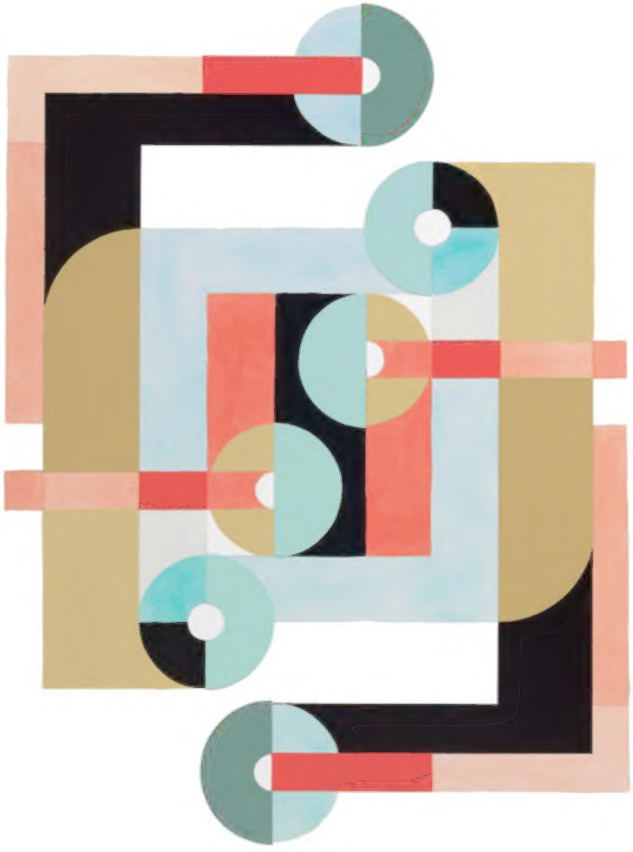

Hypnogogic Press
Toronto

LUCID DREAMS

ART THAT WILL WAKE YOU UP

Stephen Whisler (above)

Front cover image by Ron Hawkins
Back cover image by Sheila Smyth
(edited and altered by Charles Hackbarth)

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Winter 2025

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BLAH BLAH BLAH
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Skulls, 2025, by Norman Barney

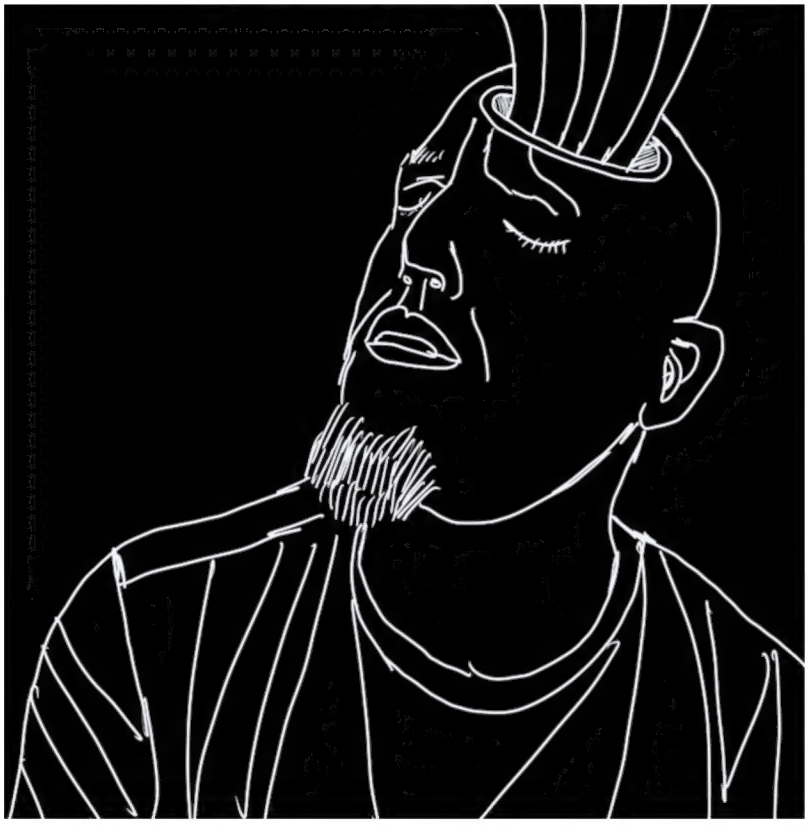
Welcome to Issue #2 of Lucid Dreams art magazine. Our mission here is to present a smorgasbord of delicious imagery gathered from a broad range of media. In this issue you'll find excerpts from experimental comics and graphic novels, drawings, paintings, digital photo-based work, poetry, sculpture, and collage.

Lucid Dreams is a celebration of the direct, visual experience of seeing and engaging with art. While some bio information and short artist statements accompany each "portfolio" our hope is that you will look first, read and ask questions, later.

Even with this issue's selection of poetry by Stephanie Goodhue, we encourage you to dive into the words and imagery with an open heart, and open mind.

OK, enough blah, blah, blah. Please enjoy!

ADAM REICH

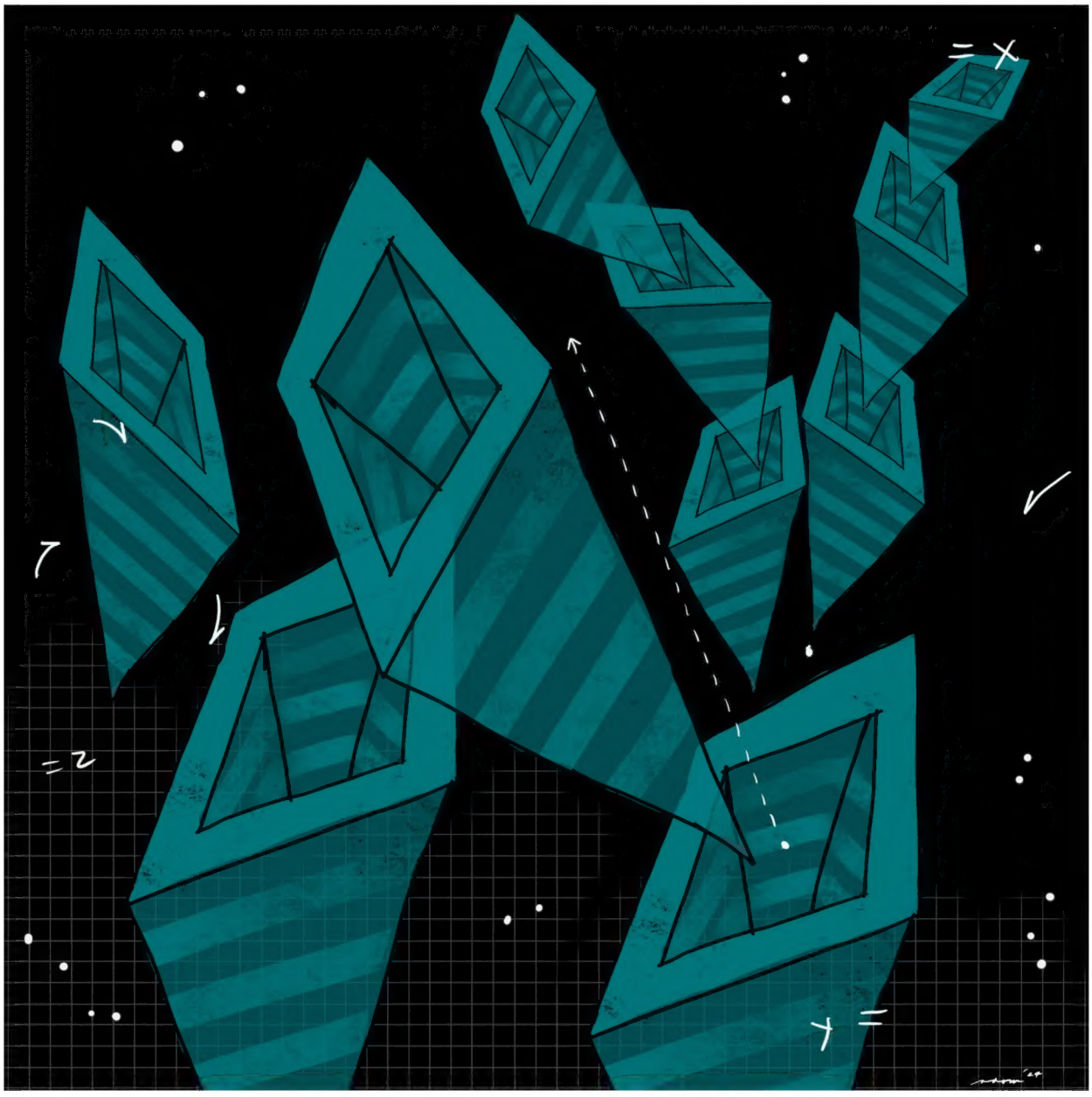


Adam Reich's drawings explore an improvised line that is loose not only in gesture but also in meaning; one that drifts between abstraction, figuration, diagrammatic, symbolic, and narrative modalities. Adam's aim is to represent a multi-dimensional universe, which includes various levels of perception, meaning, matter, and meaninglessness.

Images and symbols arise from the simple building blocks of drawing, similar to the way nature builds large structures from small, incremental units. These further develop into motifs, or combine to create more complex scenes. Various elements appear, such as microscopic organisms, creatures from mythology, pieces of technology, and images based in science. Still other images seem to vaguely illustrate elements of his short stories.

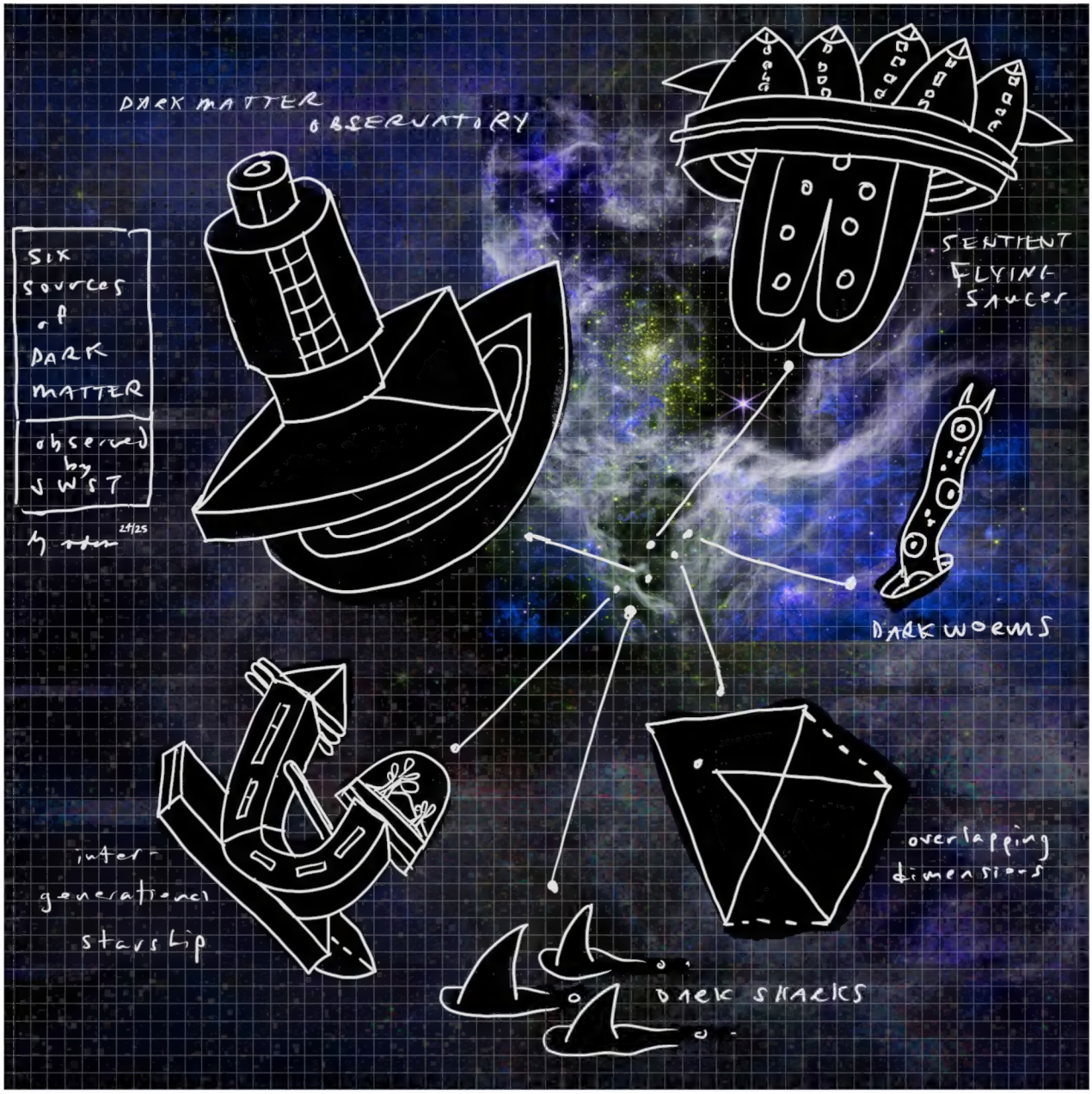
Primarily a visual artist with a studio degree from York University, Adam's professional work includes decades of festival production, and some sound design for theatre. Adam is also a writer, focused on prose, poetry and theory. His recent work has been evolving into an interconnected series of short, absurd science fictions.

The 3 pieces reproduced here were presented as pigment prints at Gagné Contemporary's exhibition, Possible Models of an Expanding Universe, in November 2025.



Blue Funnels 3 (black macrocosm) Digital Drawing 2024 /2025

Blueprint of a Futurist Dreaming, Digital Drawing 2024/2025



Dark Matter Observatory, Digital drawing 2024/2025

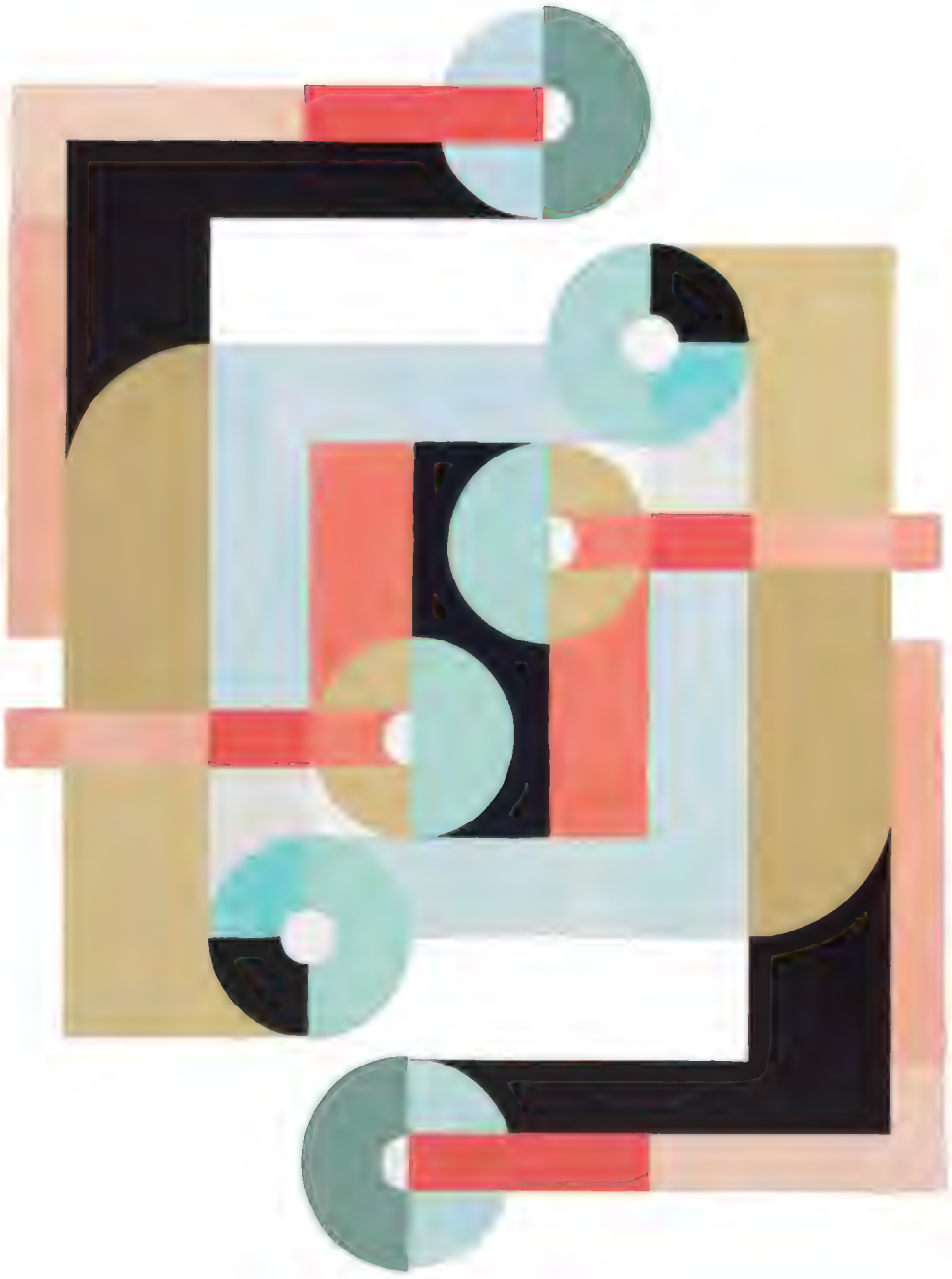
Charles Hackbarth, The Icon, digital imagery, 2025

Allison Rietta

Allison Rietta is a Toronto-based abstract artist who began her full-time artistic career in 2020 after a 25-year tenure as a creative director in branding and marketing within the graphic design industry.

Rietta's artistic expression draws inspiration from mystic geometry, nature, and sacred sound. Her geometric abstractions mirror her spiritual practice of meditation and sound healing. Her work is characterized by geometric rhythms, vibrant colours, and simple shapes and formsMy abstract paintings and collages explore mystic geometry, symbols and patterns, working predominately in watercolours and acrylics.

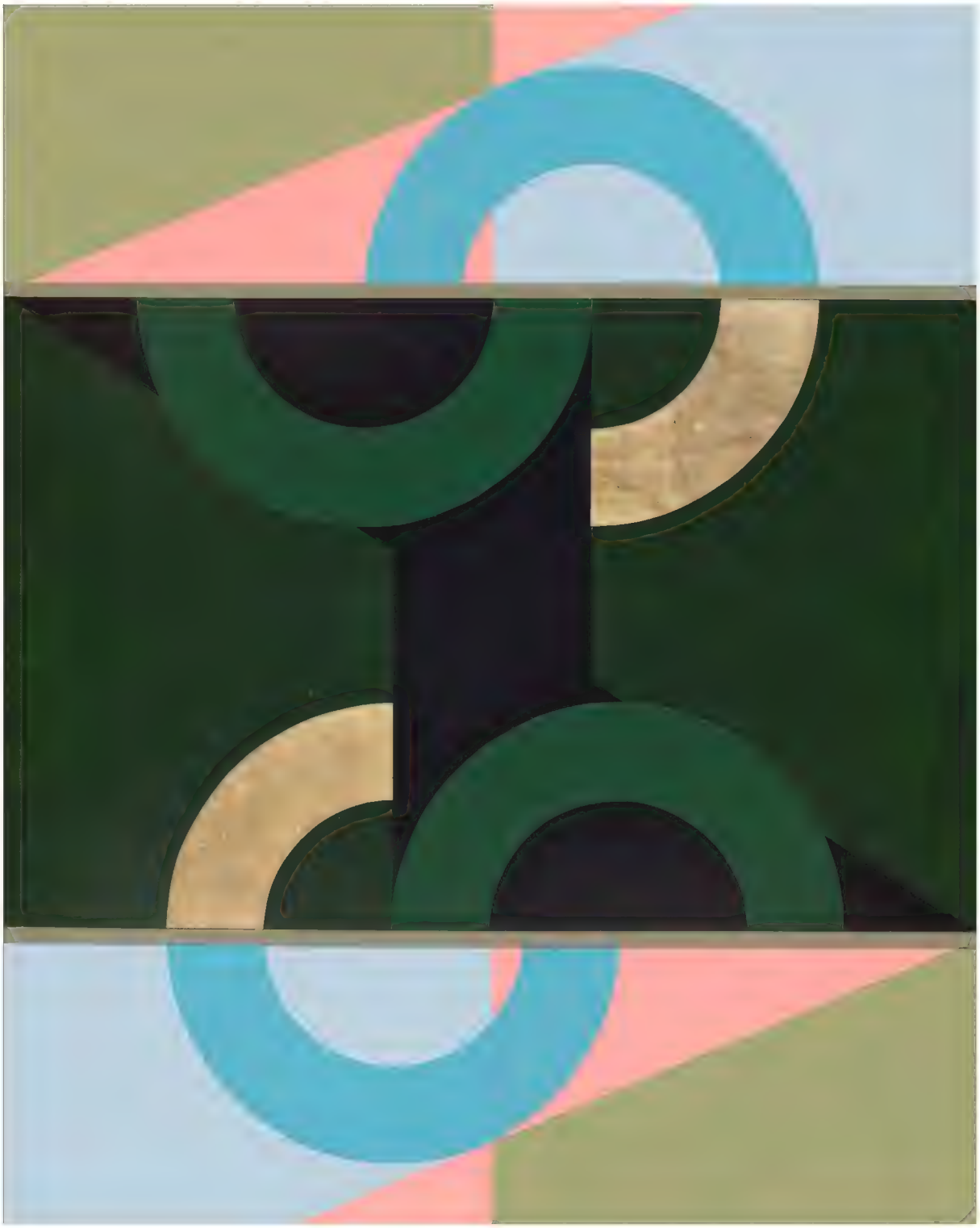
Rietta says "my work is informed by my graphic design background, and my spiritual practice of sound and meditation. Drawing on the sacred sounds of singing bowls, my pieces exude melodic vibrations in which colours transcend the visual into the auditory. I see a relationship with the healing properties of sound and geometric rhythms, and my work with the sound bowls overlaps with my geometric artwork. I blend the inner and outer character traits of spirituality with the relationship between simple shapes and forms".



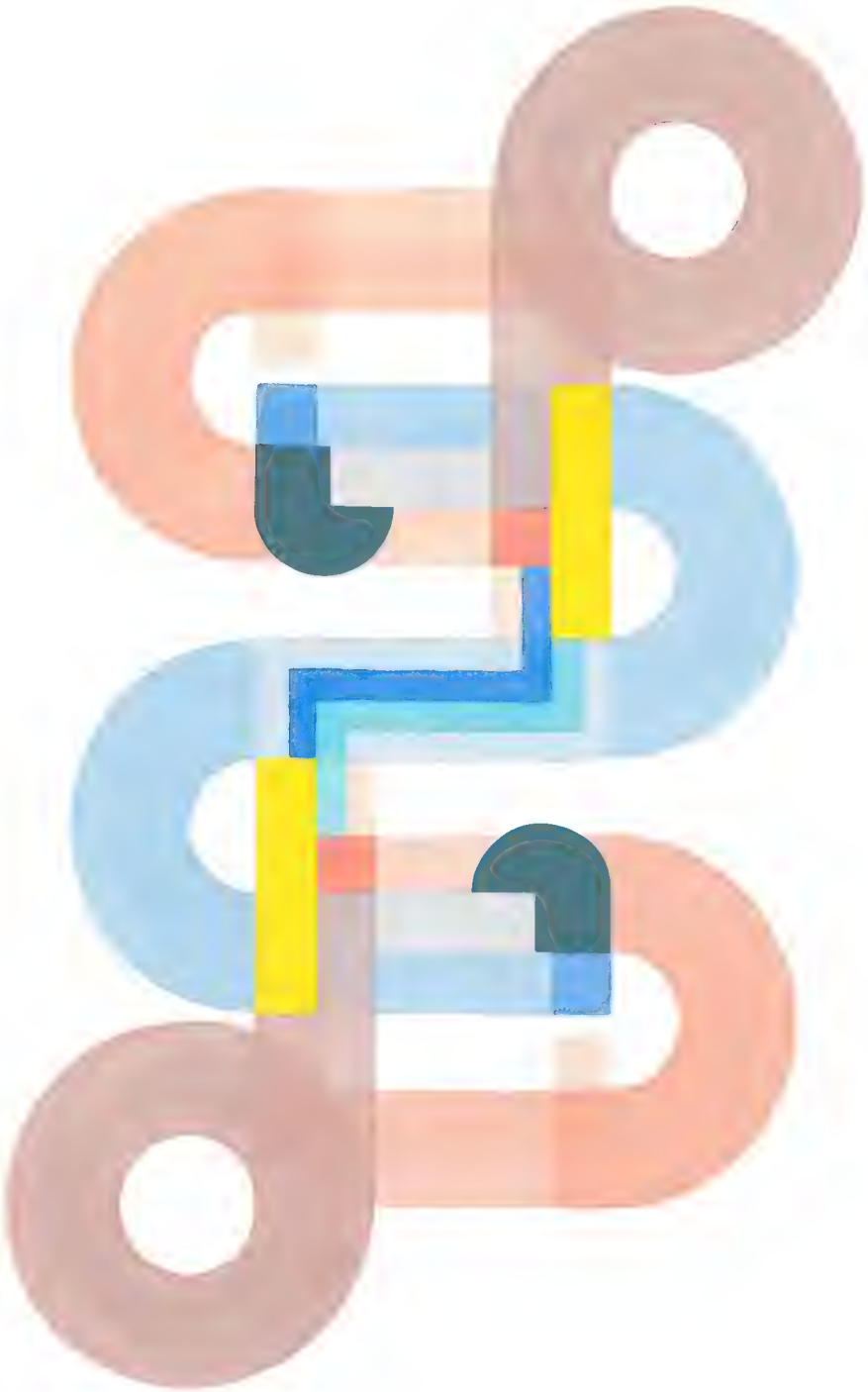
Birdsong, 20 x 24 inches

Pastel Overtone

Interlunar, 16 x 20 inches



Scene of the Gathering



Serpent's Sister, 22 x 30 inches

THE VENETIAN MASKS: AN ALLEGORY

This series of paintings is a reflection of how we travel through life. Each person's journey is different but we all have a beginning that will lead to an end, we begin our story, develop perceptions, go through struggles and so on.

"The Venetian Masks: An Allegory" asks the viewer to spend time with each painting and reflect on their life so far, the characters are 'guides' for each viewer, and each character represents an aspect of a moment in time. As Shakespeare once wrote "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players."

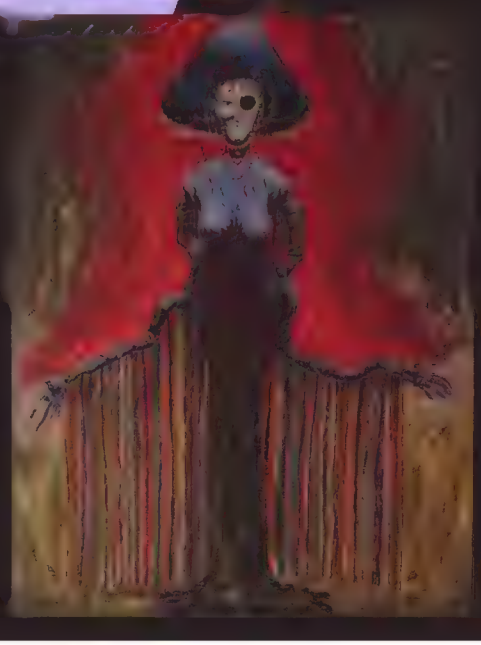
CGhirardo's Neo Humanism paintings are a contemporary look at the human body in relation to communication and characteristics. Bio-Spirituality teaches us that the body is also a storehouse of knowledge and the need for us to listen to our bodies. Neo-Humanism distorts the limbs to emphasize expression from the body to those around us

THE VENETIAN MASKS:

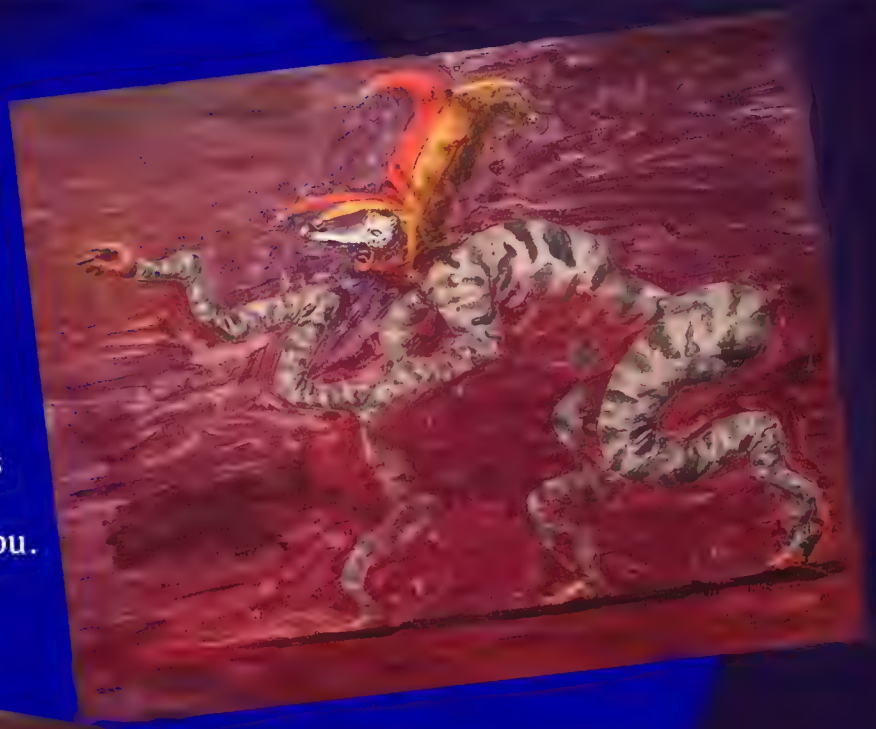
AN ALLEGORY

Once there is a beginning,
there is also an ending.
The two live side by side.

From inside you see
the story take place,
you mark it all.
Tell all. Read it all.
Again and again.



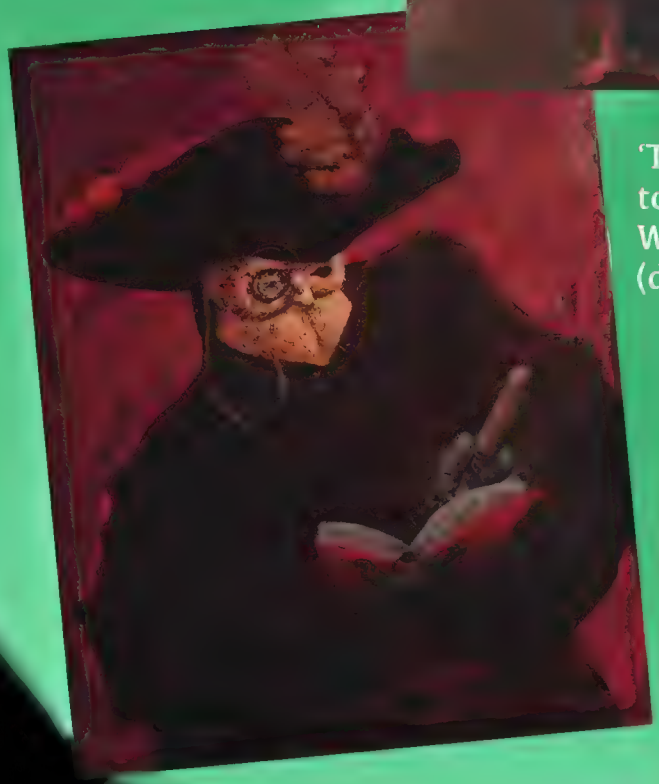
With two eyes you see BUT
in two directions you view.
And you stretch beyond your reach.



Crawling by, and laying
down, and vice versa,
each moment the concious
and
the unconcious are with you.
On this journey with you.

Life marks you, boils over you.
You may not see it,but, you
Feel it.
And live, with it.

And, you'll hide. But
below it, you reach out
in ways you never know.
Or will know.



'Till in one vision, you begin
to decipher the difference between
Wisdom and Knowledge.
(dare all/one hopes)

And, as the travel goes, a new set
of clothes will be tailored
solely for you
for an ending to a new
Beginning.

Alan Glicksman

Alan Glicksman is an Owen Sound based artist and musician. Alan's work is created spontaneously. A real sense of playfulness and the joy of creativity comes through in both his visual art and music.

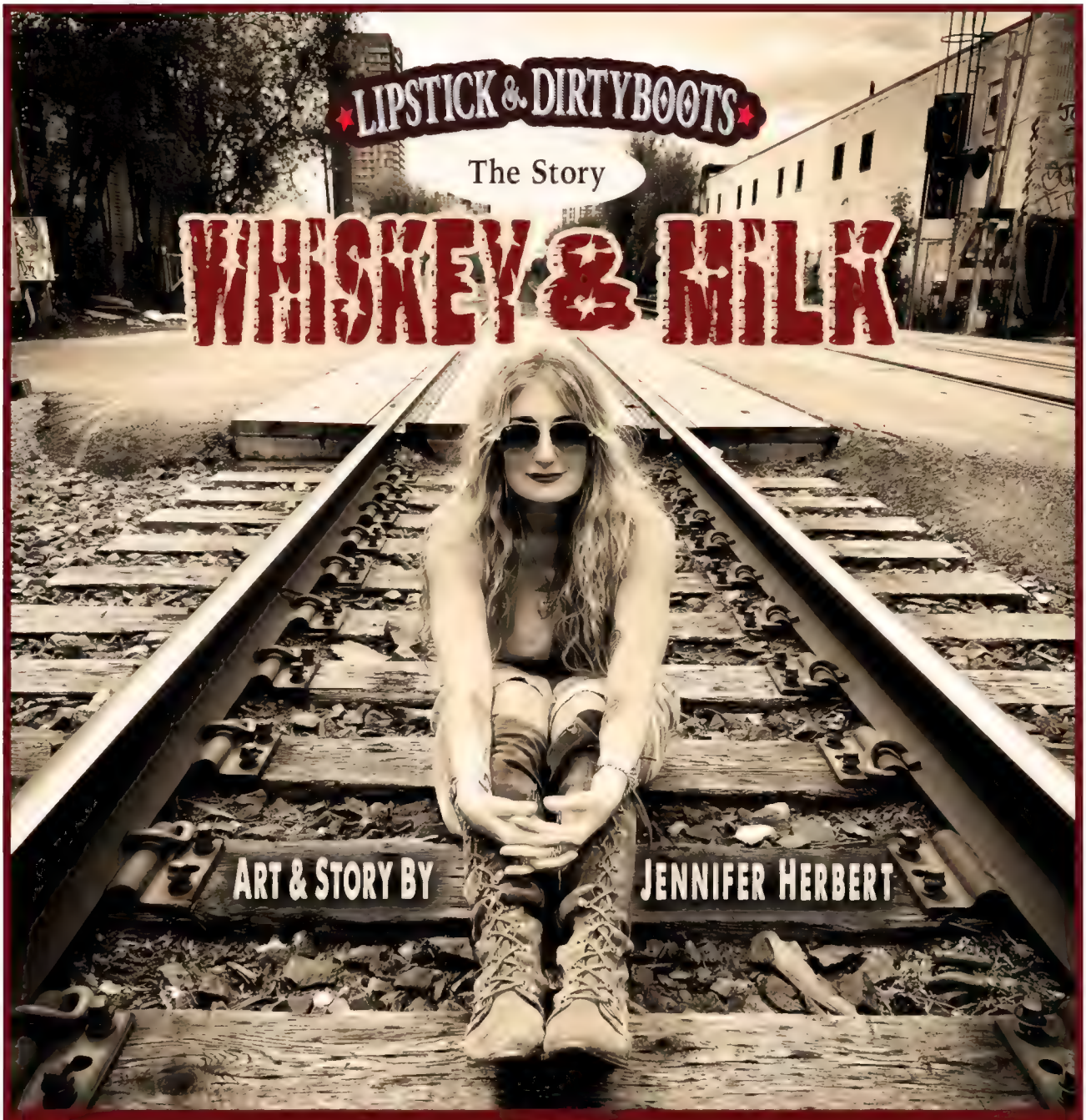
Better Left to Instinct

The End is an Idea

Plastic Brain

One Master, Many Forms

What's Meant To Be Will Find ItsWay



"Whiskey & Milk"...is a series I've written and illustrated. It's the story of flesh & bone and outlaw love. What's "Whiskey & Milk" all about? It's that colour of the desert, those dusty worn out boots, a glance from under a hat, your favorite pie and coffee at the diner, good guys and bad guys, Impalas to Pick Ups and that first sip of smooth heat that goes down your throat. It's sassy, my women are fierce and my men are dangerously hott. Ever been on a road trip? consider this series as an adventure, not knowing what's around the corner and who you might meet...let's face it, that's the thrill of the journey!

MADAME LA LUNE

My mother was a Priestess
and papa played the slots...
Learned a lot about
Lady Luck, the Holy Ghost
and taking shots...
Had my first taste of whiskey
from a bootlegger down in town
and bad boy Preacher
put my hand in his pocket
for a nickel...

OUTLAW LOVE WAS ALL AROUND.

Mother told our fortunes
and laid out our fate.
Papa played at sheriff
but showed up all too late.
There's a voice
from over the mountain
that doesn't make a sound...
I'm heading there to find it...

Outlaw love was all around.

Madame La Lune
BULLET
A
Fortune Teller
Past
Present
Future
Spells

SKINTY

He's a caravan...

A wild hand

with empty pockets

AND A GAG MAN.

Music pounds from
a drummer's hand...

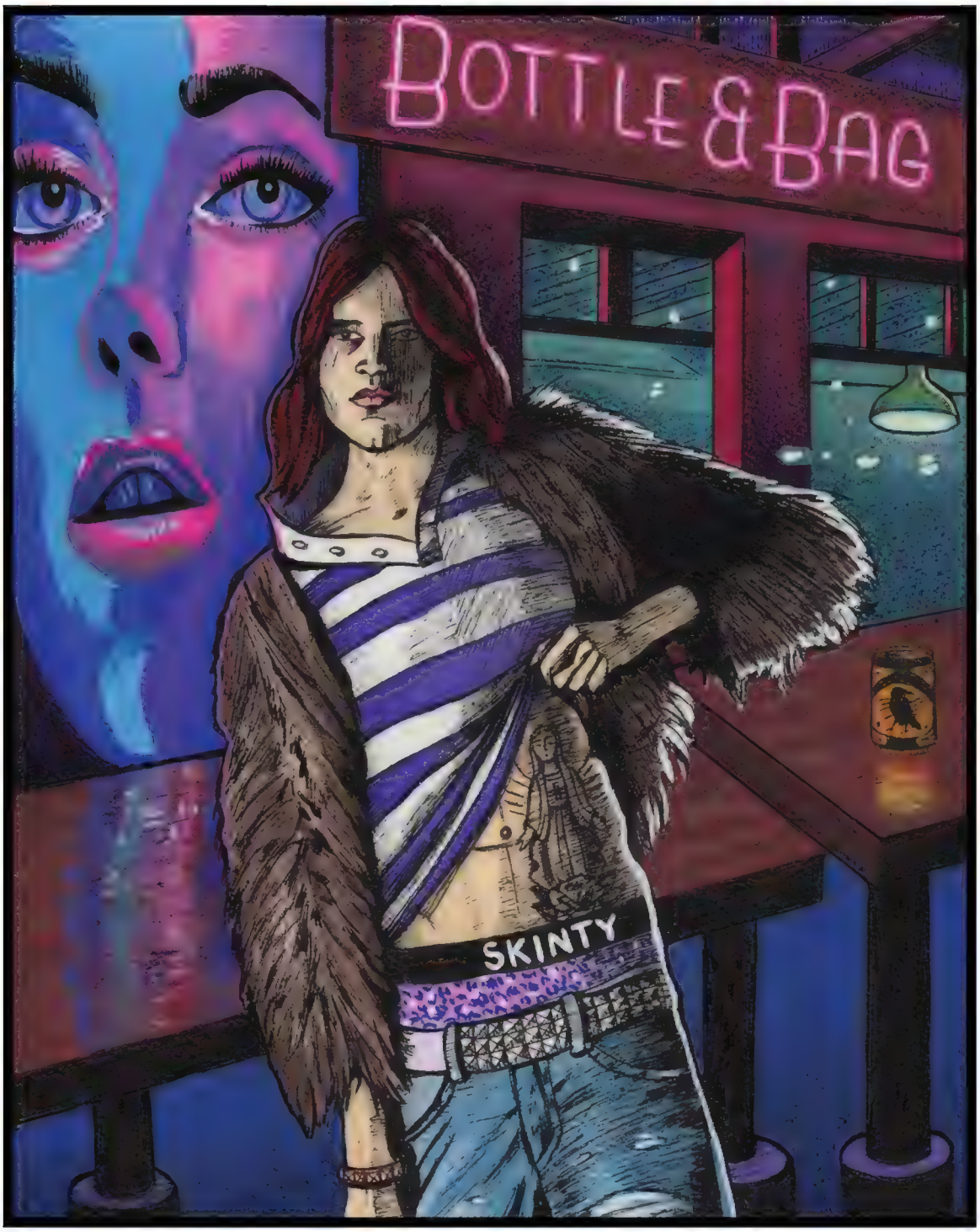
Whiskey pours and
the old man snores...

Everything is pinky
till your pockets
end up empty...

now you're feeling skinty

and alone, alone, alone.

Art & Ditties By Jennifer Herbert~Lipstick & Dirtyboots www.jenniferherbert.com


BOTTLE & BAG
SKINTY

GODDAMN

Happy hour
high in the desert heat

Car pulled a *U*
on a dusty street

Always checkin' for that bible on the dash

GODDAMN

hold me back...Johnny Cash.

GOD
DAMN

Joey DAMMIT! is a Toronto based pop surrealist, who explores the Cult of Personality through his drawings and paintings, which merge illustration, pop culture imagery, and graphic design with masterful skill.
Born in Portugal, Joey and his family moved to Canada when Joey was 4 years old. Throughout his teen years, Joey pursued his two passions; drawing and music. In the 1980's, Joey fronted a couple of "hair metal" bands. Eventually, he abandoned the stage to concentrate on his visual art.
After studying Graphic Design and Advertising at Humber College, Joey worked in advertising. Over time, Joey developed a strong, graphic style, evident in the work shown here, that integrates "high" and "low" art.
JOEY DAMMIT!

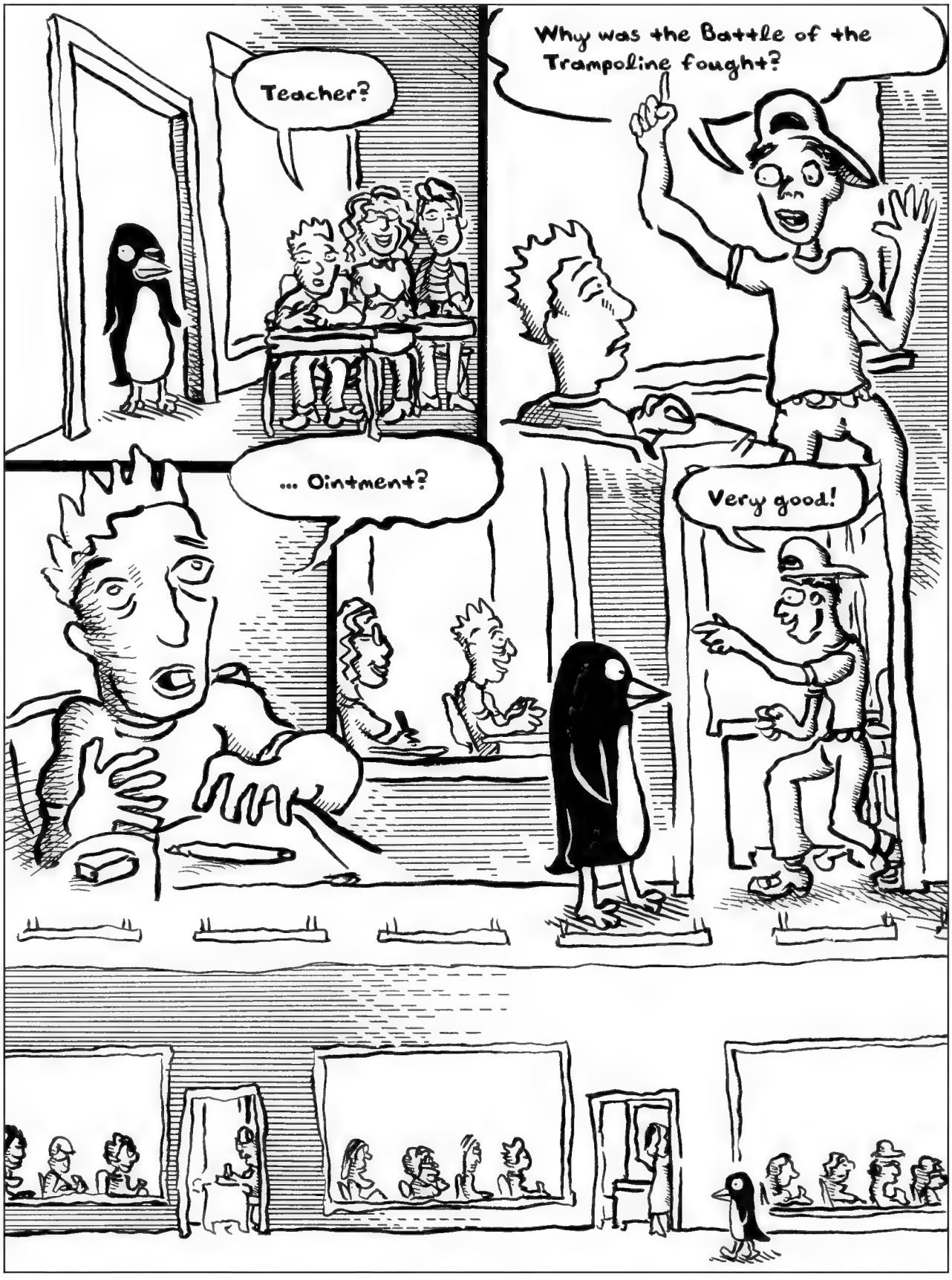
THE TRIUMPH of MECHACHRIST, 2025, 24 x 36 inches, mixed media

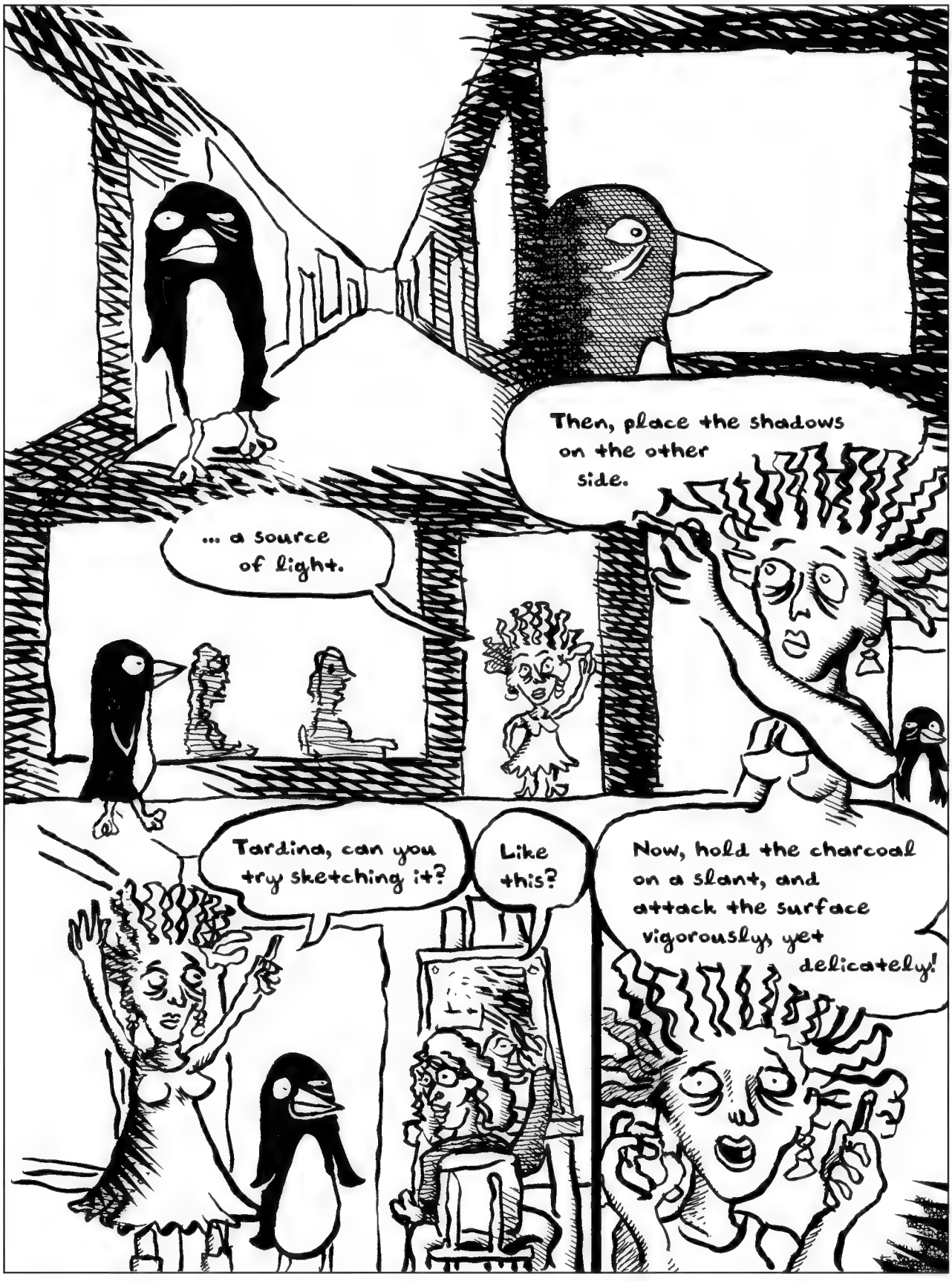
LAUGH! CLOWN! LAUGH! 2024, 24 x 36 inches, mixed media

MACHINES OF THE REPUBLIK, 2024, 20 x 24 inches, mixed media

MATTHEW BROWN

Matthew Brown is a Toronto-based comics artist and writer. Recent books include "FALL SOUND: 4 ½ Songs by Mark E. Smith's The Fall" (2025), "Monk: WORK" (2025), "TEARS FOR ERIC: The Appearance and Disappearance of Eric Dolphy" (2023), "ORNETTE SPEAKS: a Cartoon Grammar" (2020), "ROTHKO: A Comic Strip Memoir" (2019) and "WHAT IS MEDITATION? And Why Should I Do It?" (2018.)


Teacher?
Why was the Battle of the Trampoline fought?
... Ointment?
Very good!


Then, place the shadows on the other side.
... a source of light.
Tardina, can you try sketching it?
Like this?
Now, hold the charcoal on a slant, and attack the surface vigorously, yet delicately!

Very good, Tardina!
Ahem. What are you doing here?
We're uh... here to fix the 33rd floor men's washroom.
There is no 33rd floor men's washroom. I'm the Vice-Principal of Lightglad Academy, Gardenia LeBoeuf.
I'm Poopsie the Penguin -- Sorry, it appears I've accidentally misplaced my co-workers, in addition to the 33rd floor men's washroom.

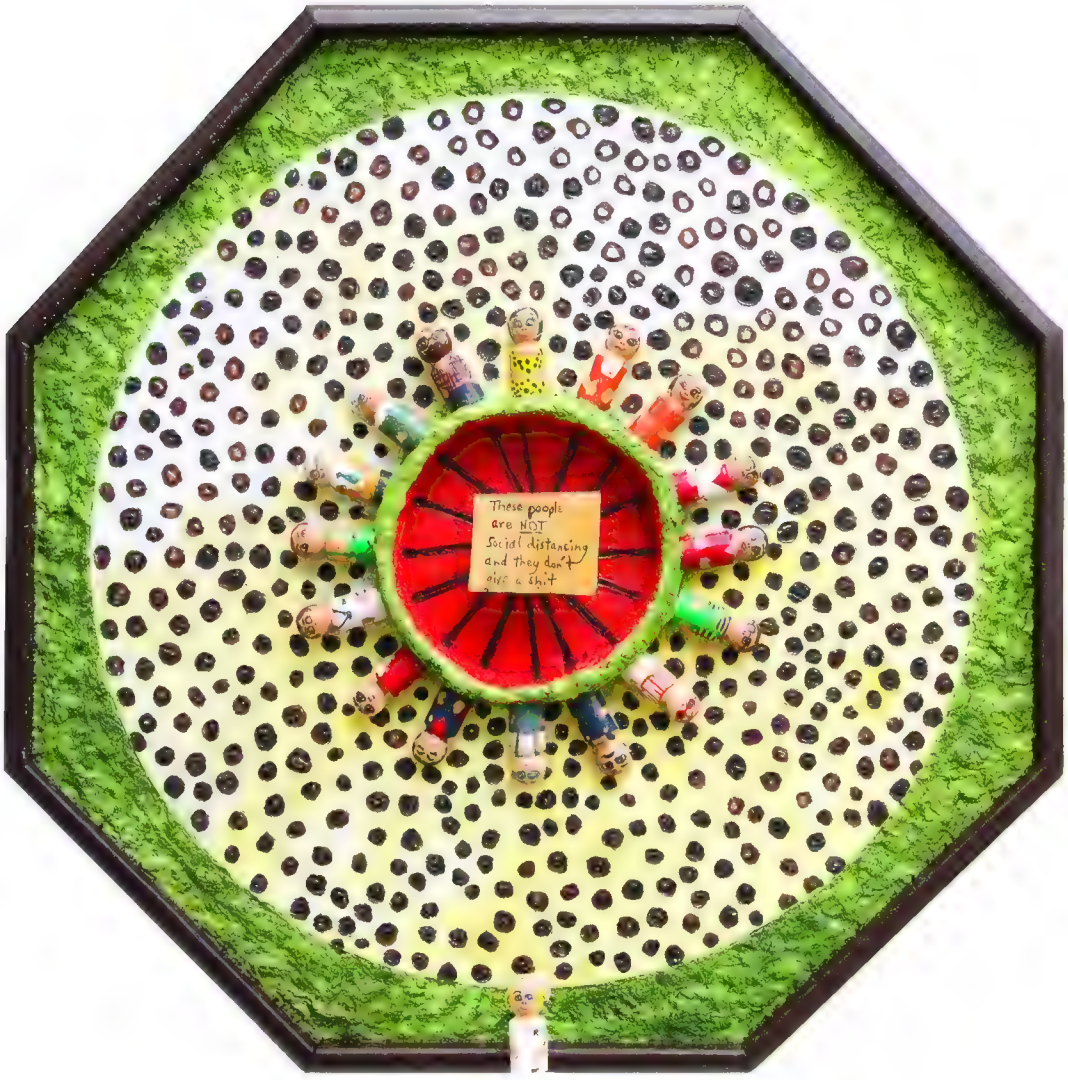
Charles Hackbarth, The Fabulous Rain Runner (page from graphic novel), 2025

NORMAN BARNEY

Norman Barney is an Ontario based artist, who creates assemblage works using found objects, kitsch, antiques, papier mache and acrylic paint. Without formal art training, Norman has forged a unique style that reflects his keen seense of humour and socio-political concerns. The child of ex-pat American anti-war and anti-racism activists, Norman's work reflects on inequities and an enduring power struggle.

Norman is also the founder of the Remix Arts Collective, which includes like-minded "outsiders" such as Claude Bolduc, Terry Graff, Karine Giboulo, and Laurie Langford.

The works appearing here transform crokinole boards into gloriously colourful, often funny, mandalas.



Social Distancing 2022

Freedom 2024

Macho 2025

Love that Fried Chicken 2024

God Watches but Does Nothing 2023

ROB O'FLANAGAN

My art is rooted in reflection and feeling. The paintings and collages rely heavily on the love and joy of colour, the challenge of composition and the need to hint at narrative. It starts with a colour field stain that becomes a setting or gathering place with the potential to hold a variety of components. Through reflection, play, and moving things around, the nascent surface attracts abstract, figurative and landscape elements that suggest place, story, symbolism and mystery. I'm moved by the pure pleasure of making art and by the compulsion to disrupt a captivating surface with precarious amalgams not easily arrived at.

Thoughts about the future of humanity, environmental ruin, the absurd, the sacred and the tragic are among my preoccupations while working. When I am able to transcend the racket in my mind, intuition and spontaneity take its place. Risk is an integral part of a process that has surprising resolutions.

Planet Buck, 2025, 10x12 inches

Trailer Park, 2025, 10x12 inches

Conservation Officer, 2025, 10x12 inches

Drum Keeper, 2025, 10x12 inches

Vacation Spot, 2025, 10x12 inches

ROBERT L. PEPPER

Robert L. Pepper is a Brooklyn-born artist and musician based in New York City, renowned for his multidisciplinary practice spanning oil and acrylic paintings, experimental films, and innovative music recordings.

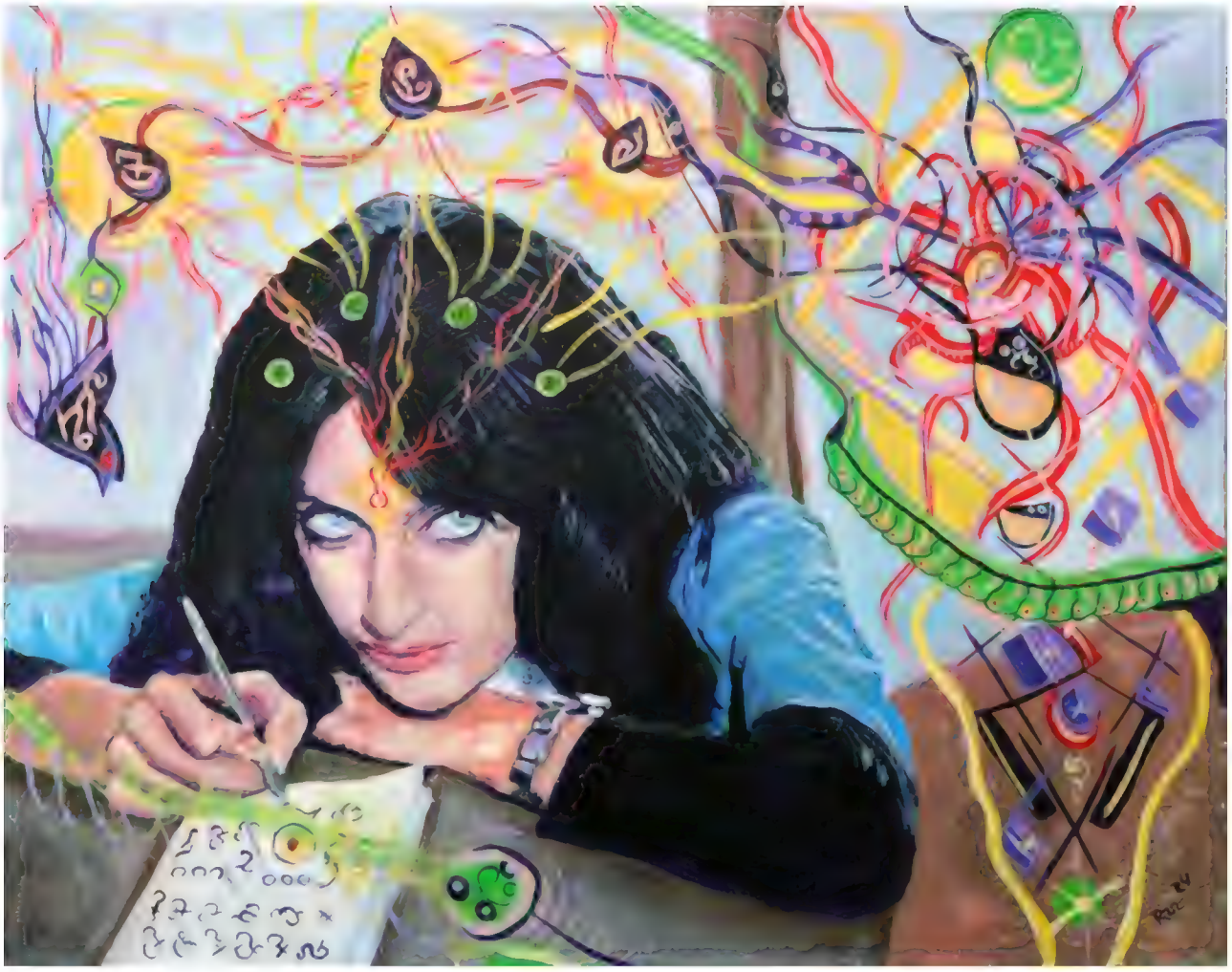
His abstract works weave intricate symbols and occult references, with portraits that deconstruct subjects' personalities into vibrant, esoteric designs. As a musician, Pepper leads projects such as Pas Musique, The Jazzfakers, Zoku Metsu, Eyryx, and 2 Rooms, blending experimental soundscapes with his visual artistry. His work has been showcased and performed in over 18 countries, captivating audiences worldwide.

Pepper says of his work...

"My artwork invites viewers into a vibrant tapestry of interwoven forms, crafting scenes and fantastical beings from the depths of my imagination. While others may escape into televised worlds, I paint to construct my own. Drawing inspiration from global tribal designs, ancient texts, microcosmic and macrocosmic realms, and occult symbolism, I weave narratives that are mysterious, provocative, and open to interpretation. Through simple yet evocative forms, I aim to captivate viewers and invite them to unravel the stories within."

A Touch of Life, Acrylic on Canvas, 24 x 30 inches, 2024

Animation Inspector, gouache and coloured pencils on paper, 18 x 24 inches, 2025



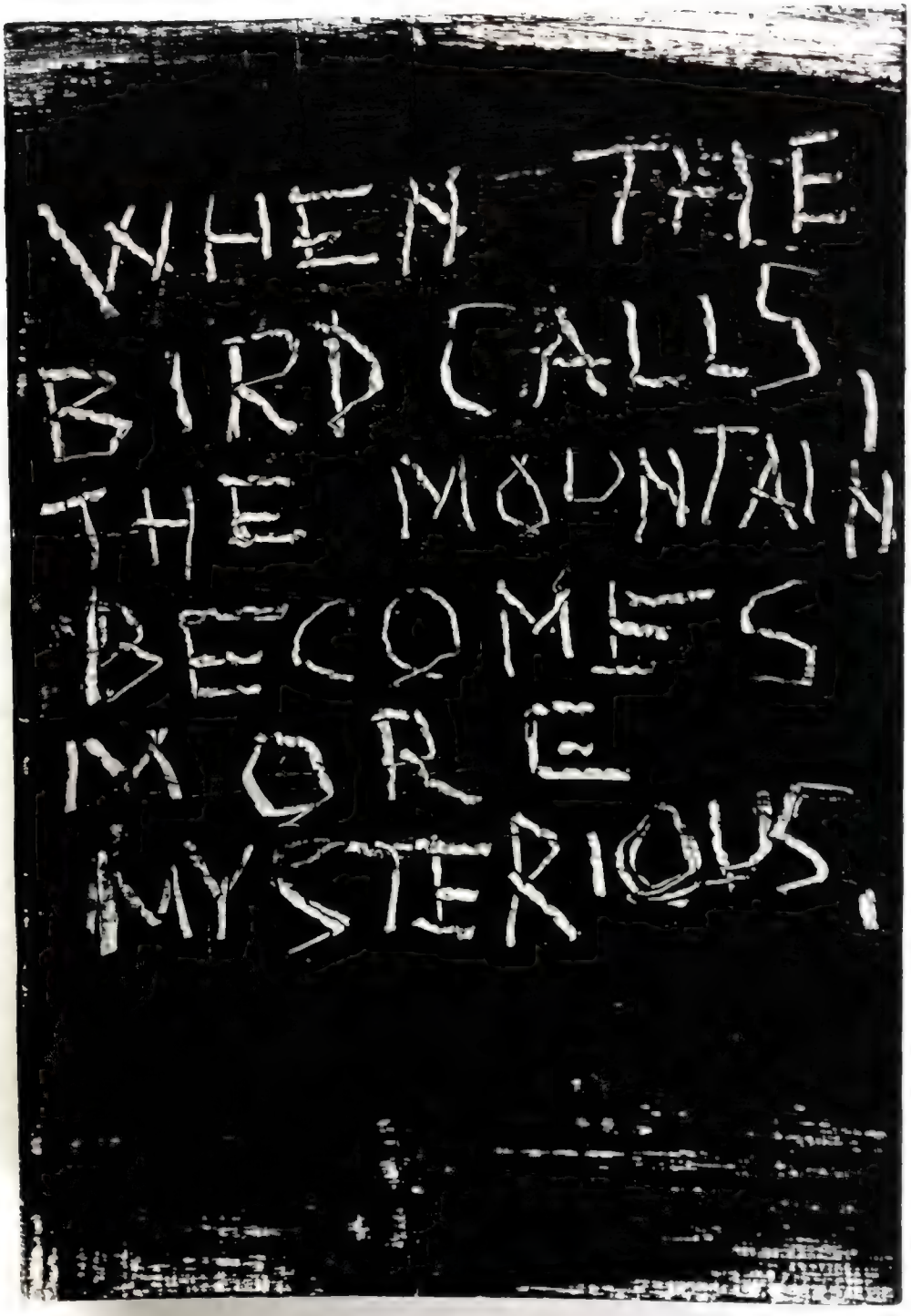
From Thought to Paper to Reality, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 30 inches, 2024

From the Light, gouache on paper 18 x 23.5 inches, 2024

The Apex of Illustrious Singing, mixed media on paper, 18 x 25 inches, 2025

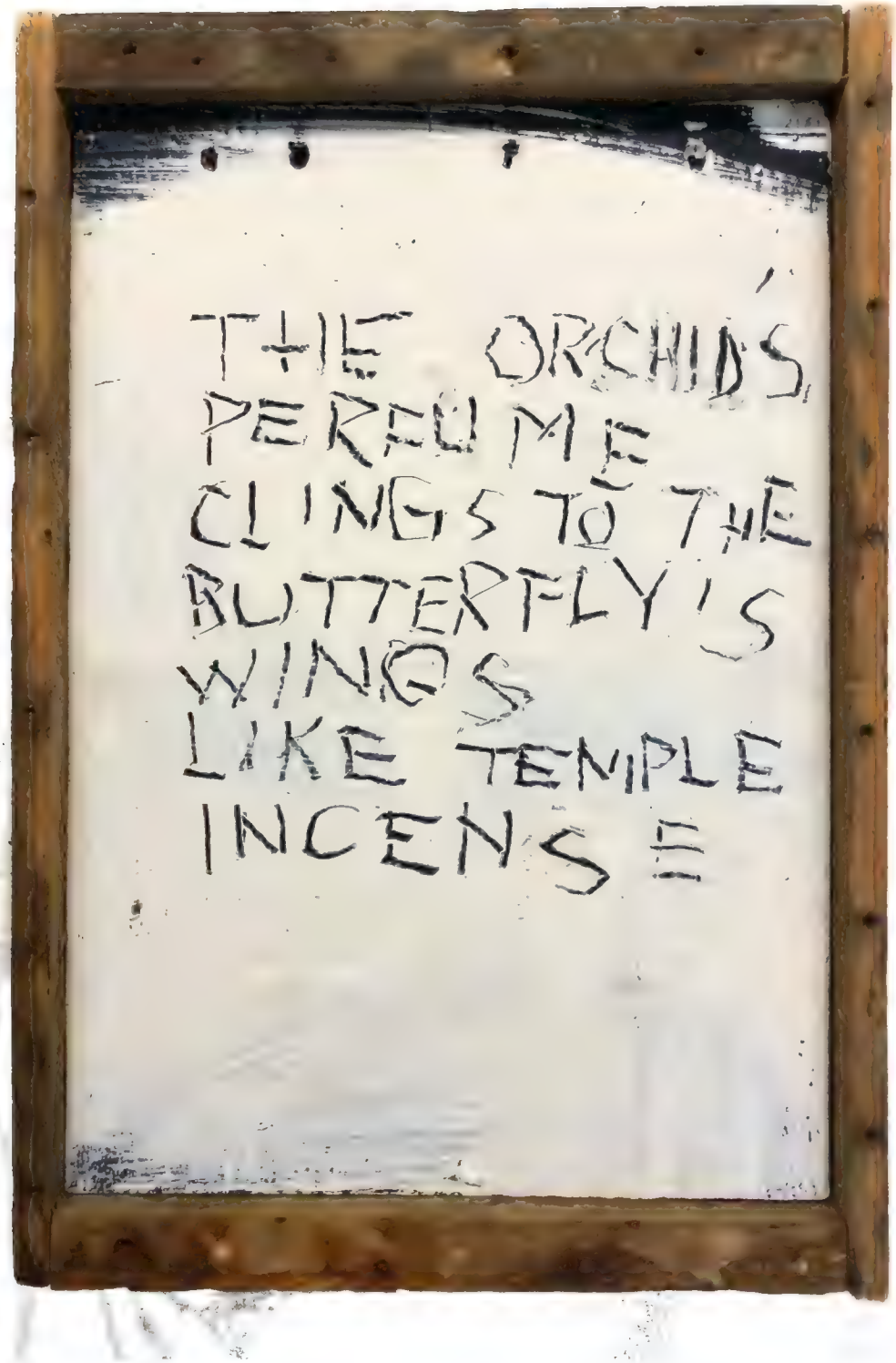
Romas Astrauskas

Romas Astrauskas, an MFA graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York, is a Toronto based artist and writer. He has exhibited extensively throughout the city participating in numerous group and solo shows within the commercial gallery circuit and has also had work displayed in several museum surveys including appearances at the Power-Plant (Toronto), The Plug-In Institute (Winnipeg) and the Art and Culture Centre of Hollywood. Examples of work from his eclectic and varied output can be found in numerous private and corporate collections.

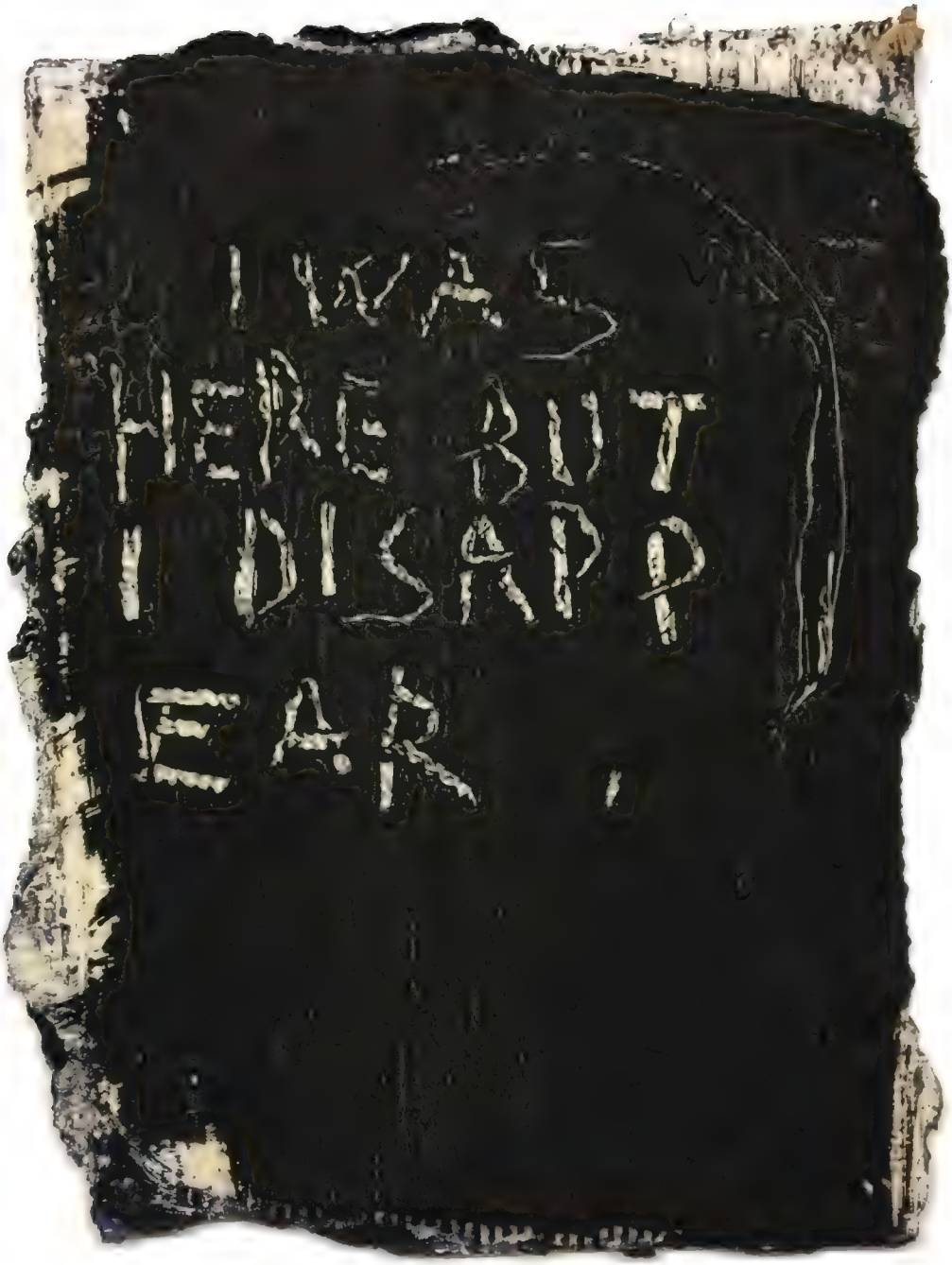


When the Bird Calls, incised house paint on wood

Telephone, home made charcoal on paper



The Orchids Perfume, incised house paint on wood with artist frame



I Was Here, incised house paint on cardboard

Boombox, home made charcoal on paper

RON HAWKINS

Ron Hawkins is a musician and visual artist. Hawkins developed his visual art practice much the same way he became a musician, by absorbing and processing the art around him rather than taking formal lessons. A latecomer to painting, Hawkins began his practice at the age of 37 and dove in headfirst, painting daily and allowing it to consume him like a drug habit.

His early works reveal a passion for portraiture, with Alice Neel the self-described "collector of souls" and Jenny Saville as particular influences. Just as his songwriting finds poetry in the everyday, his portraiture seeks the stories and mysteries held within the human face.

These balaclava portraits are a conversation between artifice and authenticity. When are we most ourselves, when we're naked or when we are free to hide behind a self created image?

"Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask and he will tell you the truth" - Oscar Wilde

SSIK #1, 2025, acrylic on birch panel, 12x12 inches

Don't Look Back In Angora, 2024, acrylic on birch panel, 12x12 inches

SSIK#4, 2025, acrylic on birch panel, 12x12 inches

SSIK#3, 2025, acrylic on birch panel, 12x12 inches

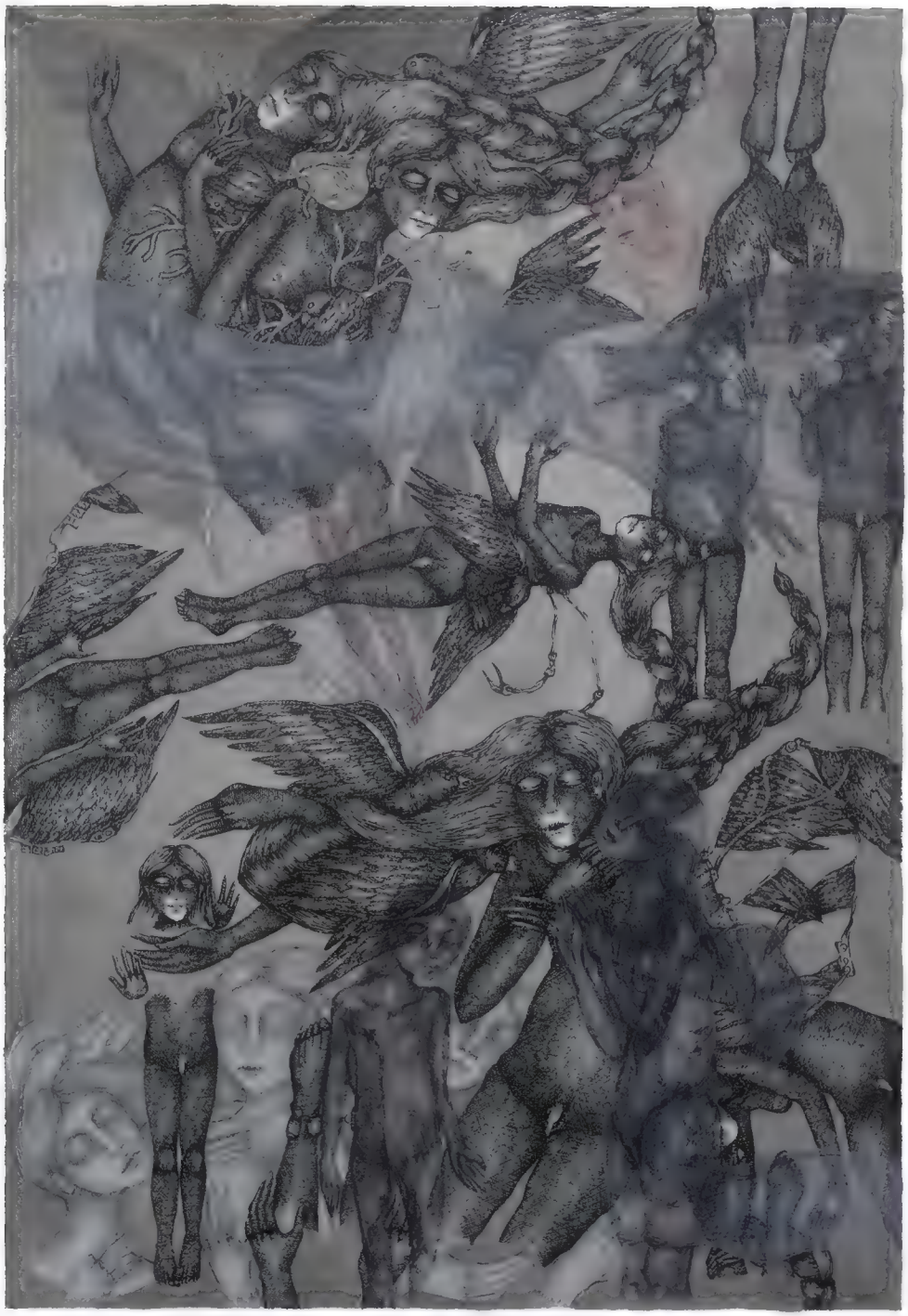
EMM, 2024, acrylic on birch panel, 12x12 inches

Ruzena

Born in 1971, Ruzena is an outsider artist living in the south west of France, near Bordeaux. She has worked, since 1997, in the cultural field as an administrator.

Ruzena says of her work, "The only thing I can say is that I have never stopped drawing since my childhood. Drawing is my home. A sort of private diary that I am the only one to understand."

So beautiful, so chaotic, so grounded [Kae tempest], 2025, 50 x 35 cm



How are we supposed to dance ? 2025, 50 x 35 cm

Je te guéris, 2024, 45 x 30 cm

So beautiful, so chaotic, so grounded [Kae Tempest], 2025, 50 x 35 cm

Sans titre, 2020, 60 x 40 cm

SCOTT SAWTELL

Scott Sawtell has been exhibiting his paintings for two and a half decades. In addition to making his paintings in his suburban studio just outside Toronto, Scott used to work diligently at teaching other like-minded individuals to create their own unique artwork at Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario, OCAD University in Toronto, Ontario, and Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Often called a "good egg" by others, Scott is helping raise two young boys to also be "good eggs".

Scott has an M.F.A from the University of Waterloo (2002) and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design (2000). As well as maintaining a vital artistic career showing work across Canada and the United States, Scott has previously curated exhibitions for The Town of Newmarket, the City of Kitchener, Oakville Galleries and Humber College.

Scuttleswamp, 2025, Oil on Canvas, 60 x 72 inches

I must soar skyward with the speed of lightning, 2024, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 60 inches

Light Light Prevail!!! 2024, Oil on Canvas, 55.5 x 72 inches

The Rip, 2024, Oil on Canvas, 48 x 48 inches

Rising Rising Rise Up Now, 2025, Oil on Canvas, 64.5 x 70.5 inches

SHEILA SMYTH

above: Soul Mirror

Sheila Smyth created the artist zine BABBLE, under the pseudonym Mr. Bones, from 1987 to 1982. Smyth has been a member of various artist collectives, including The Purple Institute (Toronto 1989) and The Gargoyle Mechanique in NYC (1992).

In 1999, Smyth received a BFA from NSCAD. For the next 20 years, Smyth did not create any art or writing due to being over-medicated for a 'mental disability'. Smyth is currently working on a memoir called SCREWLOOSE. Her collages can be found on Instagram under smyth6491.

Smyth's work reflects her interest and involvement with spirituality, community, political autonomy, and intellectual freedom in art and writing.

Sheila Smyth is currently based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Second Coming

Everybody Has a Book Inside of Them

'A blend of many cultures'
It's happening again
'Nobody alive has ever seen something like this'
'I must be here for a reason
Reciprocal gratitude was everywhere
'It could be a lot worse'
THE RIVALRY IS NOT DEAD
'We're done. See yah'
I WILL WAIT
2025

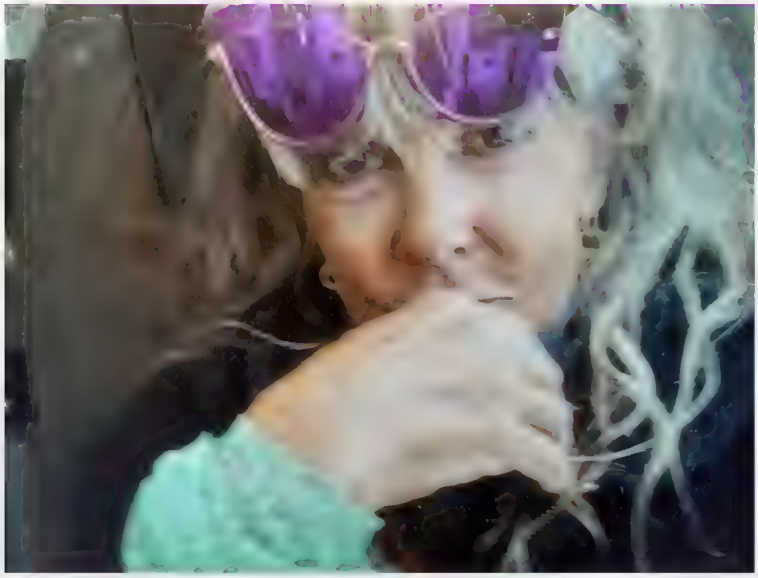
I Will What?

why are there so many questions?
CRAVING COMFORT
Whatever you thought, think again.
MADE TO HELP FILL YOU UP
THE DESIRE TO BE HEARD, KNOWN, AND FELT DEEPLY NEVER DISAPPEARS.
Rediscover your path.
DON'T SAY IT UNLESS YOU MEAN IT
YOU CAN CRY IF YOU WANT TO
Could we finally be at a turning point?
Keep your mental health in shape.
THE EDGE OF FOREVER
Innovation In The Making
HOCUS POCUS?
ALMOST Nearly PERFECT
GENERATION STARSHIP
Patriarchy Is Not Destiny
A Fan Letter

Stir Crazy

She Chose Death Over Suffering

STEPHANIE GOODHUE



Stephanie Goodhue is a poet who contributes to environmental and social activism through her writing and live performances.

She has previously self-published two chapbooks: "WEST OF FATE" and "TOA JONES: BEYOND THE AVERAGE". She has been the featured performer at Wild Writers reading series in Toronto and has recited her work at open mics at The Flamingo and Beaks Old Florida in St. Petersburg, Florida and at various venues in Toronto. She has recited her poetry on live radio at WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa, Florida.

Stephanie was granted a full academic scholarship to St. Petersburg Junior College and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida in Political Science and Journalism and a Master's Degree from the University of Toronto in International Relations. She is also a member of the French National Honour Society. Stephanie's poetry has been featured on CIUT 89.5 FM (Howl and The Cool Side of the Pillow). Stephanie lives in Toronto where she continues to write poetry.

WATCHING SPADINA

The maelstrom exceeds its bandwidth
in the making of a sandwich

Bahn Mi Bao
It's a quarter past now

Duck fat dollies roll cilantro
Dragging cobalt blue into the night

Smoke signals chained by
Spadina-sprigged cilantro and a four-carrot Carier shop

Streetcars sparked a neon blur
Their overhead cables Cat's Cradled at College Steet in the rain

Students wear hat books and run free
Bubble tea floats in rainbows at Choi Lee

Oblivious to the pig carcasses hanging in the window next door
A sanguine and pallid indifference to the boar

Opium corners the doorways,
the markets, the pursed lips

Rubber is laid
Tea is sipped

Monopoly dice lands in fried rice
There is no boardwalk

Bearded men lean into the wind
Captured by the Waverly and Silver Dollar
They do not pass GO

The Scott Mission corners illicit doorways
Opium corners mouths
Gated in Mandarin and in Spanish

A five o'clock food truck shadow-shaves time according to plan-nish

The night is young
Sophomores mingle in pitchers of Student Night Sangria
A day-pass patient from CAM-H holds rawhide like a phone

Smoke signals ring towards graffiti streetlights
The duck fat dollies drag cobalt blue into the night

ALEXANDRA PARK

Quiet echoes cross the park in winter
Mukluks crash through frozen snow angels
Opening advent calendar doors of hinterland glitter

Waxed white marble
The ice rink shines Greta Garbo

Reflecting pine boughs laden thick with jeweled snow
Tree-top twinkles sprinkled by a diaphanous wind

'Tis the season of hiss and chop
Blades and sticks slap the ice
Guy rolls up the rim and wins

In a gliding lunge he retrieves his stick
Holding his coffee with his grin

An opposing defenceman spins

Black confetti
Charcoal tracers
Hockey puck trajectories

Love Bug windshield of Mario Andretti
Silenced by a billowing net

A game of curling between adults and children takes place
A Dad yells, "Grownups win! In your face!"
He cranes his neck like candy-cane, checking his followers

Insouciant and adjacent on the figure skating rink
Nadine cocoons in a faux-fur collar

She Swarovski-etches a circumference of giant chicken feet
An oval border of avian footprints at the periphery

Crystal facets coalesce near the Zamboni edge
Flooded frozen curves of Murano
A public rink in downtown Toronto

Nature's insatiable search for frozen molecular arrangements resumes
A unique race that floats into dusk and a Crescent moon

The sun disappears beneath a goose-down cloud
Popcorn- sized snowflakes suspended
Searching for their sound

The stars settle crisp against indigo
Blurred by our breath
frigid puffs snagged by the Crescent moon

Toboggans crackle on frozen snow
A thermos of Egg-Nog in tow

A rink guard latches the gate
Acknowledging Irving Berlin for the weather
And 4:30 for being late

THUMPERS DINER

Mister Montenegro arrived in 1990
after crossing emaciated borders

He stuck out like a sore thumb
A newcomer to the neighborhood diner if there ever was one

He always chose the blue glitter swivel seat
Ordering a cup of tea with a wedge of lemon and nothing more

His tattered tweed spoke of need
Professorial suede patch elbows stitched in time
Withered hands arranged nickels and dimes

He appeared near the brink of trouble despite his sparkling eyes
Habitually tonguing a wire where a front tooth used to be

He never said very much
It wasn't because he was reading a newspaper

One time he laughed at my joke
Then asked to shake my hand
He said that I shook hands like a man

He said not to worry
As human beings we improve, we impRRRoove

His eyes smiled as he rolled his R's
and etched the homemade pies with his concentration lines

In the diner dust of Thumpers
Mister Montenegro crosses my mind

STEPHEN LACK

Stephen Lack is a Canadian born, New York based artist and actor. Lack was a part of the influential East Village art scene in the early 80's with artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Julian Schnabel, Keith Haring, and Sherrie Levine.

The works included here reflect his interest in urban car culture. His neo-expressionist paintings often appear calm and nostalgic on the surface, but also reveal an unsettled tension. The artists says of his work, "I like to seduce the viewer into the beauty of the image world and then reveal the threat."

As an actor, Stephen Lack worked with David Cronenberg in his early films Scanners (1981), Dead Ringers (1988). He has also been featured in several independent films such as Montreal Main (1974), and The Rubber Gun (1978), which he also co-wrote with Allan Moyle, and for which he was nominated for a Genie for both his performance and screenplay.

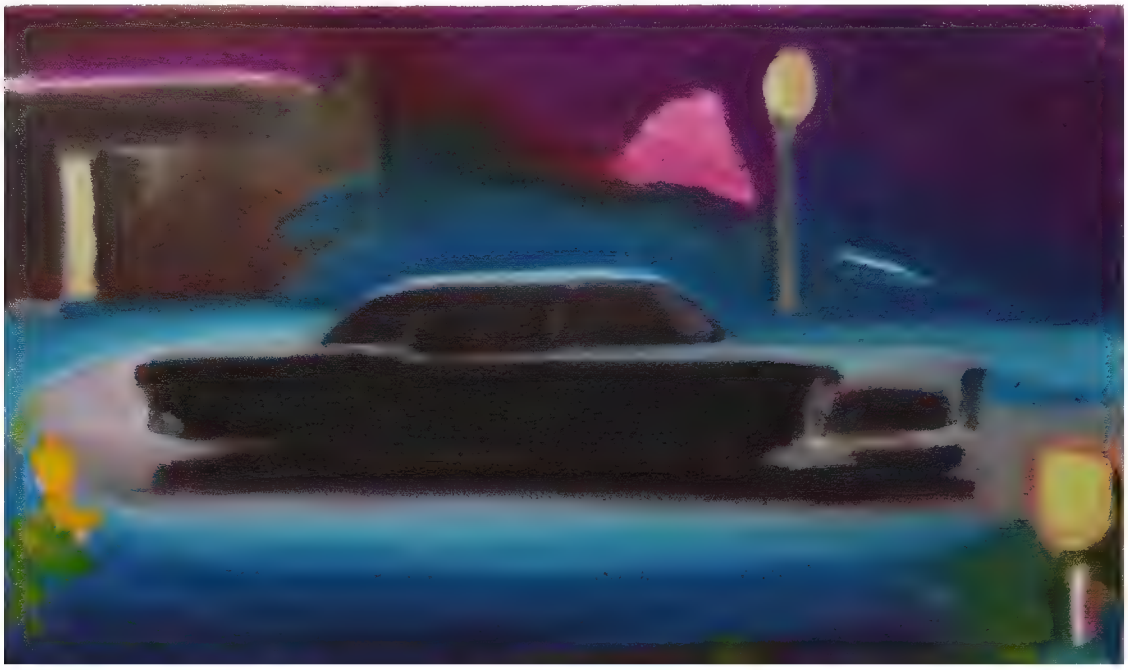
photos by Clifford Oliver

For Garage

Midnight Riviera

Burning Lambo

Gremlin Murder



Quintin's Ford

Common Yard

Cloudy Day Cadillac

Roadside Rest

TERRY GRAFF

Terry Graff started fusing birds with machinery and found objects in the early 1970s as a visual expression of the process of becoming modified for survival in an ever-evolving technological world fraught with environmental peril. As a kid, he collected monster models and Hawk "Weird-Ohs" and enjoyed making freaky-looking creations by kitbashing or model bashing, that is, by making new models by combining parts from different kits. This early creative activity, along with his many prodigious childhood drawings of birds and machines, eventually evolved into the creation of an extensive series of "avian cyborgs," a distinctive vision in Canadian art where mutant birds are armed with war machinery and combat weapons. With reference to the long history of the association of birds with war and militaristic nations that extends back to ancient times, Graff's ornithological blitzkrieg is a potent blend of black humour and apocalyptic angst that speaks to the most pressing existential themes of our time: the grim horrors of war and ecological collapse.

Krieg Vogel, 2014

"I'm inspired by post-apocalyptic literary fictions and films where the survivors inherit a non-technological wasteland and become scavengers of the dirty, rusted, and broken remnants of machines which they piece together to create dystopian inventions, like the badass vehicles in the Mad Max movies." -- Terry Graff

WARBIRD WITH MUZZLELOADER HEADGEAR, 2019

JUB JUB, 2020

ROAD WARRIOR, 2019

BRAVE NEW WORLD, 2020

STEPHEN WHISLER

In November 2024, following Trump's reelection, I created Sculpture To Hide My Head In with a sinking feeling in my stomach. Hiding, absurdly, like the proverbial ostrich, in a sculpture of my own making felt strangely appropriate.

Sculpture To Hide My Head In (2024) and its follow-up, Sculpture To Hide My Head In 2 (2025), are constructed from papier-mâché and mounted on stainless steel carts; evocative of bodies on dissecting tables. My performative interaction with these works, along with their photographic documentation, is integral to the pieces. The photographs stand as artworks in their own right. Bodily structures, like the stapes bone of the inner ear and the aortic arch of the heart, continue to inspire my sculptures and large-scale charcoal studies. Aorta Arch, like Uvula Arch, is conceived as a monumental passageway. Though I've only completed a maquette and a large drawing, these give a strong impression of its intended scale and presence.

Sculpture to Hide My Head In, 2024, Papier-mâché on steel with steel base, 60" x 24" x 18"

Uvula Arch, 2023, 86”x 91”x 13”, Papier-mâché on steel and wood

Maquette for Aorta Arch on a Medical Cart, 2025, Papier-mâché on steel with steel cart, 64" x 28" x16.5"

Small Maquette for Aorta Arch, 2024, plaster, with Study for Aorta Arch 2024, charcoal on paper, 86" x 59"

Foreground: White Smoker,1986, plaster, papier-mâché, plastics and pigment, 100"x 30"x 36",
background: Study for Quadruped, 1986, and Study for The Semicircular Sculpture, 1986.

FRAGMENTS

story art by vincemancuso, written by Max Bancheri

VINCE MANCUSO

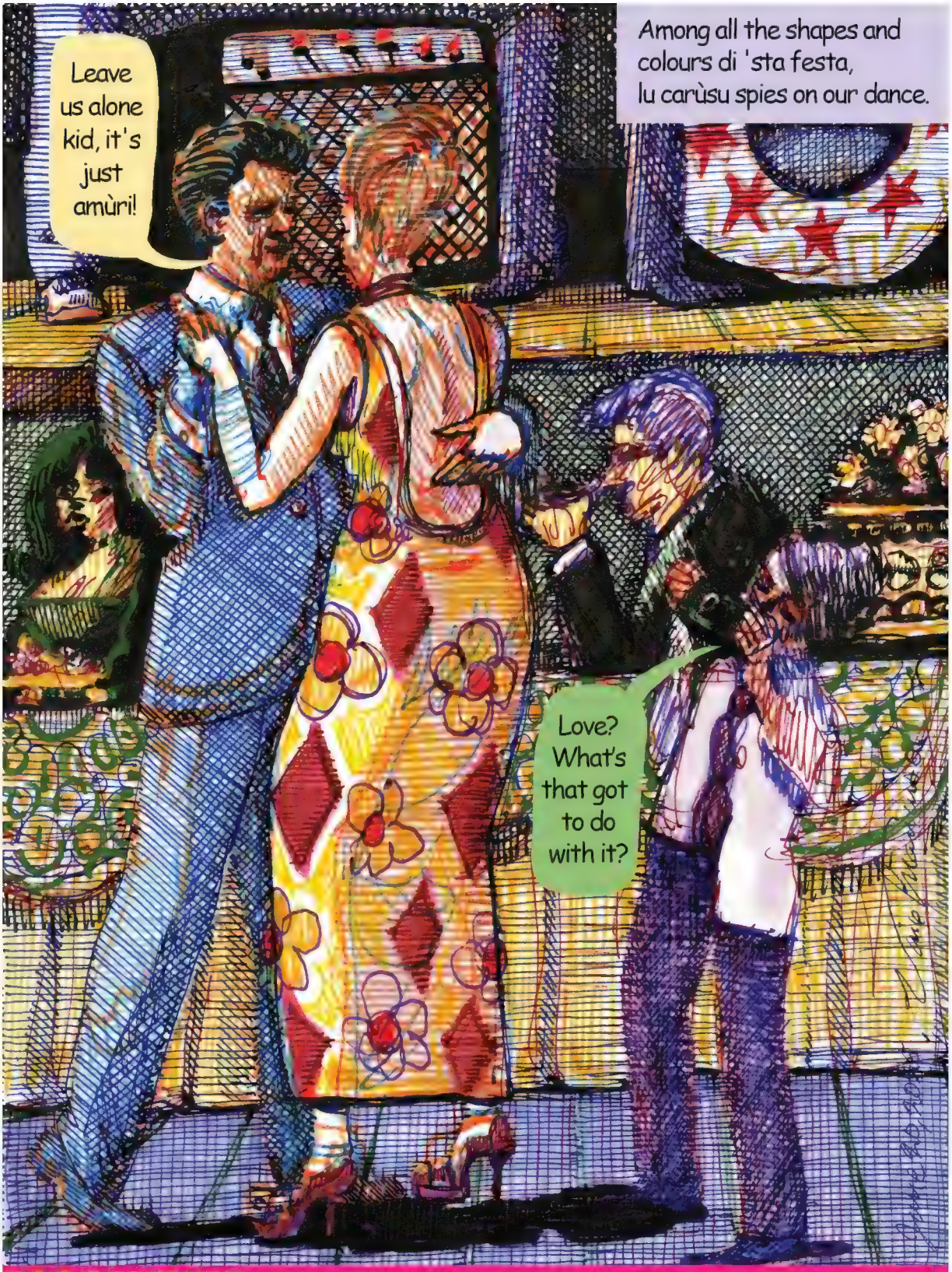
PHOTO BY GEORGE NANOS

MAX BANCHERI

PHOTO BY GIOVANNI LUCA SCIOVE

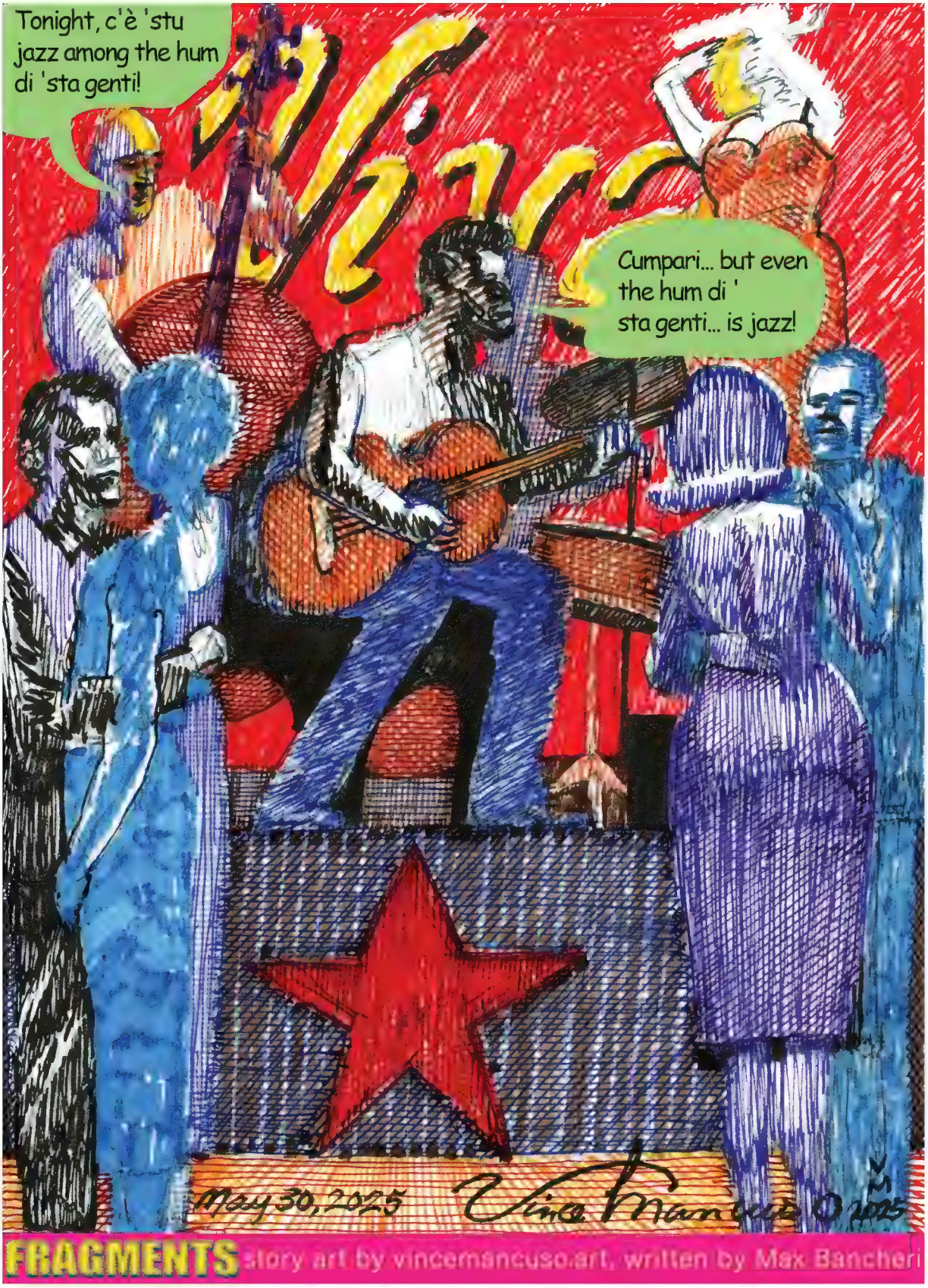
Drawing is magic. Vince Mancuso delights in this alchemy. There is always a critical point when the formal elements of design turn and become an illusion. A visual fairytale that can't be escaped. Here is where the whole is greater than the sum of it's parts. This is the place where his art dwells. The work published in this issue of Lucid Dreams is an extension of his Solo show of paintings and drawings on display at the Columbus Centre, in Toronto called "The Dance", November 19, 2025 to January 6, 2026. To see more art, visit vincemancusoart

Max Bancheri lives in Sicily. In 2025, he published a book of haiku composed in his native language with an italian translation titled "Haiku-fo". He is the co-curator of an italian YouTube channel focused on current affairs called "Papà Pensanti" (Thinking Dads). He also creates a podcast titled "Scienza Coscienza Fantascienza" (Science Conscience Science Fiction), available on various platforms, including Spotify and YouTube. He collaborates with popularisers, writers and artists. He teaches meditation and is dedicated to meditation and spiritual research.


Among all the shapes and colours di 'sta festa, lu carùsu spies on our dance.
Leave us alone kid, it's just amùri!
Love? What's that got to do with it?

FRAGMENTS story art by vincemancuso.art, written by Max Bancheri

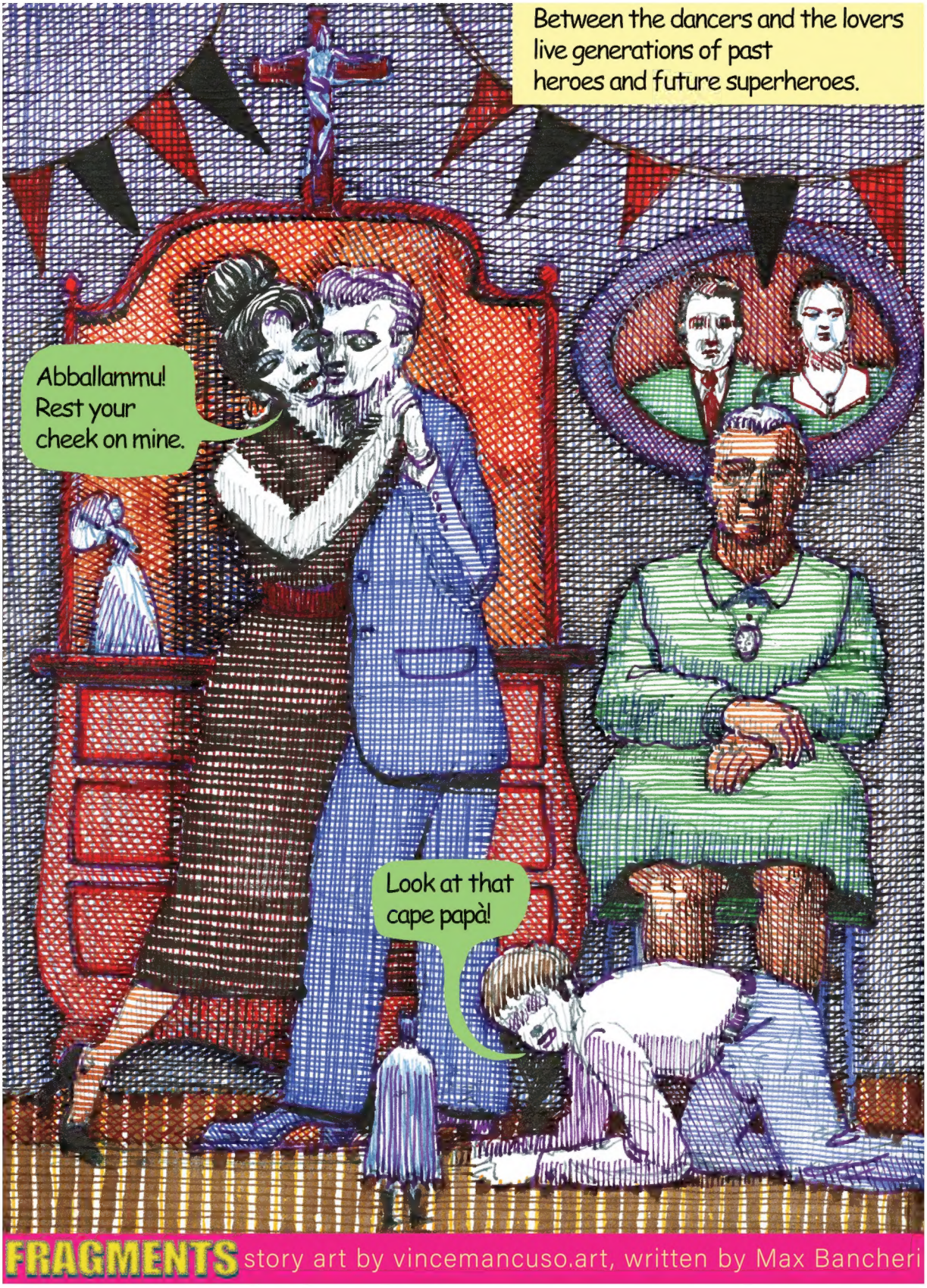
From a pair of movers on the floor...to a pair of occhi vivi watching the dance.
Mizzica! The dance floor was absolutely blazing!
Ah si? So, let's go outside and make some smoke!
FRAGMENTS story art by vincemancuso.art, written by Max Bancheri



FRAGMENTS story art by vincemancuso.art, written by Max Bancheri

We find ourselves together amidst the familiar lights and shadows of a family gathering.
Pirchì?
Do you know pirchì my family members are like an old toy?
Because they remain nni lu me' cori even if I sometimes forget them.

FRAGMENTS story art by vincemancuso.art, written by Max Bancheri


Between the dancers and the lovers live generations of past heroes and future superheroes.
Abballammu! Rest your cheek on mine.
Look at that cape papà!

FRAGMENTS story art by vincemancuso.art, written by Max Bancheri

ARTIST LINKS

WHERE TO SEE MORE FROM THE ARTISTS YOU LIKE

Adam Reich - http://beacons.ai/adamreich

Allison Rietta - allisonrieta.com

CGhirardo - paintedcomic.wordpress.com

Charles Hackbarth - www.charleshackbarth.com
https://thebonesoflight.weebly.com/#/

Alan Glicksman - https://www.facebook.com/alan.glicksman.1

Jennifer Herbert - https://www.jenniferherbert.com/

Joey DAMMIT! - https://joeydammit.com/

Matthew Brown - ambientzero.blogspot.com

Norman Barney - www.normanbarney.ca

Rob O'Flanagan - https://www.instagram.com/robbieoflan/?hl=en

Robert L. Pepper - https://www.robertlpepper.net/

Romas Astrauskas - https://www.instagram.com/romasastrauskas/

Ron Hawkins - www.ronhawkins.com

Ruzena - https://outsiderart.co.uk/portfolio/ruzena/

Scott Sawtell - https://scottsawtell.com/home.html

Sheila Smyth - https://www.instagram.com/smyth6491/

Stephanie Goodhue - https://stephaniegoodhue.bandcamp.com/
album/mission-impeccable-2

Stephen Lack - https://www.stephenlackart.com/

Terry Graff - https://terrygraff.com/

Stephen Whisler - https://stephenwhisler.net/Stephen_Whisler.html

Vince Mancuso - https://www.vincemancuso.art/

Max Bancheri - https://www.instagram.com/maxbancheri/?hl=en

ART THAT WILL WAKE YOU UP!